THE

MEDICAL AND PHYSICAL JOURNAL,

CONTAINING THE
EARLIEST INFORMATION ON SUBJECTS
OF
MEDICINE, SURGERY,
PHARMACY, CHEMISTRY,
AND
NATURAL HISTORY;
AND A
CRITICAL ANALYSIS OF ALL NEW BOOKS
IN THOSE
DEPARTMENTS OF LITERATURE.

CONDUCTED BY
T. BRADLEY, M.D.
Member of the Royal College of Phyſicians, London; Phyſician to the Weſtminſter Hoſpital, and to the Aſylum for Female Orphans; Lecturer on the Theory and Practice of Medicine, &c.
BY
R. BATTY, M.D.
Licentiate in Midwifery, of the Royal College of Phyſicians, London; of the Britiſh Lying-In-Hoſpital; Phyſician to the Infant Aſylum; Fellow of the Linnean Society; and Lecturer on Midwifery.
AND BY
A. A. NOEHDEN, M.D.
Vice-Secretary of the Phyſical Society of Gottingen; Correſponding Member of the Linnean Society, London, and of the Medical Society at Paris.

VOL. IV.
FROM JUNE TO DECEMBER, 1800.

LONDON:
Printed for R. PHILLIPS, No. 71, ST. PAUL'S CHURCH-YARD; and ſold by all Bookſellers in the United Kingdoms.
Price Twelve Shillings in Boards.
[WILLIAM THORNE, Printer, Red Lyon Court, Fleet Street.]

ADVERTISEMENT.

It is unnecessary for us to enumerate the advantages the World derives from the different branches of Medicine. The state of health enjoyed by most human beings, at some period or other of their lives, impresses this fact too forcibly on their minds to render it a subject of doubt. To most of the readers of the Medical and Physical Journal, who are probably members of the Faculty, still less need be said on this subject, every practitioner being thoroughly convinced that much real benefit is daily arising from those who lose no opportunity of acquiring information, and immediately applying the skill and discoveries of their brethren to the best advantage.

We trust that our endeavours in so widely diffusing the aggregate labours of individuals have contributed materially to this desirable end; indeed, if we may be allowed to judge from the flattering testimonies we daily receive from our Correspondents, and from the circulation which the Medical and Physical Journal now universally has through the Navy and Army, we are confident that the benefits accruing to our brave champions and defenders must be inestimable, and the improvement in Naval and Military Physic and Surgery incalculable.

In retracing the various subjects in this Volume, our readers will agree with us, that very valuable additions have been made to our knowledge of the Cow-pock; that its discussion in our Journal has extended the benefits of this discovery to the world; and the minute inquiry into some occasional irregularities attending it, has led to a certain mode of practice, securing the happy effects mankind are taught to expect from it.

On the practice of Midwifery, and on the management of the Placenta, we are persuaded that considerable benefit must result from the valuable communications and practical remarks we have inserted on this important branch of medicine.

We are glad to observe that Physicians are now adopting the affusion of cold water in the hot stage of fever, a practice introduced by the ingenious and learned Dr. Currie, who is entitled to the thanks of the Faculty for a powerful remedy, and precise rules for its application; on this head we have conveyed some additional

[Entered at Stationers Hall.

THE

Medical and Phyſical Journal.

VOL. IV.] JULY, 1800. [NO. XVII.

To Dr. BRADLEY.

DEAR SIR,

IN a former Number of the Medical Journal, you did me the favour to inſert a paper, giving an account of a fact relative to the Glouceſter Militia, which went to prove, that thoſe perſons who had been infected with the Cow-pox, could not afterward be infected with the Small-pox. Since that time, there have been ſpread many vague reports of caſes, in which it was aſſerted, that ſeveral perſons who had been inoculated for the Cow-pox had, afterward, been actually infected with the Small-pox. Preſuming that ſome error in the nature of the matter inoculated, or in the conduct of the operation, muſt have been the cauſe of ſuch oppoſite concluſions, (if there was any foundation for the reports) I take the liberty of ſending you a copy of a letter, with which I was honoured, from a nobleman of diſtinguiſhed worth and reſpectability. His Lordſhip could not be miſtaken in his obſervation of what paſſed when his own children were inoculated for the Cow-pox; and yet, the circumſtance related, may diſcloſe the cauſes of theſe very different opinions and aſſertions. Nor could his Lordſhip have any other motive for condeſcending to make this communication, but what was moſt humane and liberal.

When the practice of inoculating for the Small-pox was firſt introduced into this country, and even within my memory, many were the objections made to it, for religious, moral, and medical reaſons; and the diſputes which aroſe between the favourers and oppoſers of the practice, were liberally and judiciouſly ſupported. But all the objections being founded in ſpeculation or opinion, have yielded to the authority of facts and experience, and they are now almoſt forgotten; though the contention taught to medical men, the neceſſity of great care and circumſpection in every ſtep they took. But with regard to the Cow-pox, for our whole knowledge of which we are excluſively obliged to *Dr. Jenner*, I have not heard any reaſon, nor ſeen or known any fact, that has induced me to

ditional testimonies to its safety and efficacy.—On the subject of Pulmonary Consumption, and the exhibition of Digitalis, we are led to hope for cures in an almost hopeless class of maladies; and although we may be occasionally disappointed in our expectations of its certainly fulfilling our wishes, it is undoubtedly a powerful agent; and when more experiments and facts shall be collected, and more precision is observed in its preparation and exhibition, we are convinced the profession, as well as the community, will not only reap the fruits of it, but confess their obligation to those who have brought it into notice.

We also trust that the public will eventually derive benefit from our communications on Cancer, and the discussion it has given rise to.—If, as yet, many new facts are not added to our stock; if we are still necessitated to have recourse to palliatives, and the feeble practice of prescribing solely to the most urgent symptoms; if we have not yet actually established a just theory, or discovered an efficacious remedy for this dreadful disease,—we are glad to find that bold assertions are received with proper caution; that statements of cases are carefully scrutinized and cross-examined; that men of science are eager to unveil mystery, and afford the world and suffering humanity, a fairer opportunity of estimating what degree of confidence may be placed on superior pretensions, or on partial and ambiguous representations of facts. However, if it be true that civil convulsions call forth unexampled energies and unexpected abilities, and if the blaze of truth is frequently elicited from the collision of jarring opinions, we have a right to hope that a full and severe investigation of the pathology and supposed remedies of this horrible disease will at last reward us for the search.

The state of science at the close of the eighteenth century gives us a good claim to our expectations. Deep anatomical and physiological knowledge are not now confined to one or two Professors at our Universities; EVERY PRACTITIONER *must lay a sound foundation of the principles of Medicine, to stand in fair competition with his cotemporaries; and we sincerely rejoice that the very extensive circulation of the Medical and Physical Journal so evidently facilitates the communication of information, and tends so rapidly and effectually to the improvement of the healing art.*

LONDON, DEC. 13, 1800.

To the Editors of the Medical and Phyſical Journal.

GENTLEMEN,

THE pleaſure and information derived by the Faculty from your very intereſting periodical publication, merits their acknowledgement; and as opinions will ſometimes very manifeſtly differ with reſpect to the treatment of particular caſes, and occaſionally with propriety, yet, although candour impoſes your ſilence, and in ſome ſort prevents your animadverſions, a diſcriminating public will approve or cenſure ſuch as militate againſt the ſoundeſt practice, and beſt authorities: Through the ſame medium, I beg leave to offer an opinion reſpecting the manual or forcible delivery of the placenta, ſo ſtrongly recommended and enforced by ſeveral profeſſional gentlemen in two or three of your laſt Medical Journals.

Having practiſed midwifery for full twenty-five years upon a very extenſive ſcale, and, I flatter myſelf, with as much ſucceſs as moſt men, during which period a variety of caſes have preſented themſelves, wherein ſuch a practice *might* have been thought expedient; but, from long experience, I am taught to believe firmly, that in nineteen caſes out of twenty, more danger and miſchief would be induced than obviated by ſuch attempts, rather than by ſubmitting the buſineſs to Nature.

The following caſe, at an early period of my practice, awakened my apprehenſion of the danger of the manual extraction, and influenced my conduct ever after; except in the moſt urgent caſe, as it *then* appeared.—I was called to a gentlewoman in labour of her third child, who had for three or four years been ſubject to fainting fits, (not of the epileptic or convulſive kind) and had had them occaſionally during her former labours, without any farther ill conſequences than retarding their progreſs in ſome degree, having always had long, ſlow, and very painful labours, though perfectly natural before. A preſentation of a portion of the funis in this caſe had taken place immediately upon the rupture of the membranes, before I reached my patient, at ſome miles diſtance from me, who had a midwife with her. Finding a good pulſation, I was induced to return the funis, which I effected, per digitale, (abſente dolore) and a ſingle blade of the forceps, with which, in almoſt every caſe of ſuch preſentation, I have ſucceeded, with perfect ſafety to the mother and child: the labour advanced ſafely, though ſlowly afterwards, and ſhe was in eight or ten hours delivered of a fine living child; immediately almoſt

 after

change my opinion, or to raiſe any doubt, but that many and great advantages will be derived from the introduction of the practice of inoculating for it; the force of every argument urged, and the ſpirit of all the wit employed againſt it, lying in the ſingle word *beſtial.* I remain,

Dear Sir,
Your very humble ſervant,
T. DENMAN.

Old Burlington Street,
May 29, 1800.

Lord DERBY to Dr. DENMAN.

Dear Sir,

I have great pleaſure in ſending you as exact an account as I can give, of a circumſtance which occurred when my two children were inoculated for the Cow-pox; and if you think the knowledge of it may prevent any dangerous conſequences to others, you have my permiſſion to make it public.

April 30,—the children, one of which was fourteen months and the other two months old, were inoculated for the Cow-pox, by Mr. Knight, from the arm of a child which had alſo been inoculated by him. On the next morning, the arm of the elder child was much inflamed, and in a few hours a ſmall veſicle appeared on the punctured part, which ſo nearly reſembled the appearance we had been taught to expect, that we concluded ſhe had received the infection. When Mr. Knight viſited the child, he expreſſed many doubts, becauſe, as I underſtood, the inflammation ſo ſpeedily followed the operation. Theſe doubts were ſoon converted into certainty, as in a ſhort time the inflammation ſubſided, and a ſlight incruſtation was formed on the veſicle, which he aſſured me had not the true character of the Cow-pox; though I was, and many others not converſant with the diſeaſe might have been, miſled by the appearance. On the Monday following, ſhe was inoculated in both arms, with matter taken from a different ſubject; and this was followed by a ſucceſſion of preciſely the ſame appearances as thoſe above deſcribed. On Wedneſday, ſhe was again inoculated from the arm of her brother, in whom the diſeaſe had gone on ſatisfactorily from the firſt inoculation. This third inoculation ſucceeded completely, the arm obſerving the ſame courſe as that of her brother. Neither of the children had the ſmalleſt appearance of fever or indiſpoſition during the whole proceſs. I am,

With great regard, &c.
DERBY.

Groſvenor Square,
May 23, 1800.

after which, a considerable hæmorrhage ensued, but ceased soon upon the application of cold vinegar and water and brandy, with an opiate, together with her syncope, which had occurred twice before during her labour. Being extremely anxious for the safety and preservation of my patient, under the above pressing circumstances, upon her recruiting, an hour after finding no advance, by gentle efforts at the funis during little paroxysms of pain, I was induced (as I then thought justifiably), as well as by the intreaty of my patient and by-standers, to extract the placenta, (manus introductione) which in the most cautious and gentle manner I separated through the hour-glass contraction of the uterus, as is usual, with little or no effusion; but a few minutes after, a sudden, though apparently not profuse, hæmorrhage took place, which produced the usual syncope, from which she never recovered.

The unpleasant suggestion upon this occasion, that probably my patient might have survived, if the business had been left to Nature, impressed and reproached me for officious zeal.

The case quoted by Mr. Wagstaff, (NO. XV.) although it terminated safely, yet, from the circumstances therein mentioned, it appeared officious, and would obviously have proved equally so, if left to Nature, a few hours afterwards.

Mr. Davies's case (NO. XI.) clearly proves the non-necessity likewise of manual or *forcible* delivery; for, if it is ever expedient, which *may* be the case, the most cautious and gradual separation ought to take place, not only to obviate hæmorrhage and inflammation, but the truly formidable mischief of inversio vel prolapsus uteri, which proves too frequently the consequence of the rough and rude hand of haste and ignorance, more especially of half-informed women midwives, an occurrence that I have several times met with, to the great sorrow and discomfort of many a valuable woman ever after. How guarded, therefore, ought gentlemen to be, in recommending and sanctioning a practice pregnant with so much mischief.

Mr. Peck's advice (in NO. XIII.) seems still more exceptionable than the former, in recommending the practice of forcible extraction invariably, if a spontaneous delivery does not succeed in ten or fifteen minutes.

The successful termination of Dr. Scott's case, (NO. XV.) by no means justified the hazardous attempts, in the extremely reduced state of his patient; more time given for her to recruit, an opiate, and frigid applications, would in a few hours, most probably, have induced a spontaneous separation, as I have repeatedly experienced.

I was much pleased to see in your last Number of the MEDICAL JOURNAL, some very judicious and pertinent remarks upon

upon this ſubject by Dr. Squire, a reſpectable practitioner and teacher of Midwifry, wherein he ably combated the arguments advanced by the foregoing advocates for the practice, and inſtanced a variety of cogent reaſons, as well as the higheſt authorities, againſt it; at the ſame time I was about tranſmitting theſe remarks, annexing many of the truly reſpectable authorities he has quoted againſt the practice, which now it is needleſs to recapitulate, therefore I ſhall only beg leave to corroborate what he has advanced on the ſubject, as from conſiderable practice and obſervation I am perfectly convinced of the propriety and rectitude of his advice, and ſhall be happy to ſee his further future obſervations on the management of the placenta, &c. which he announces is his intention of giving to the public; and am,

GENTLEMEN,
With much reſpect,
Your obedient humble ſervant,
J. SYER.

Melton, Suffolk,
May 29, 1800.

Obſervations on the Belladonna.

By THOMAS WAINWRIGHT, Member of the Royal College of Surgeons in London.

To the EDITORS of the MEDICAL and PHYSICAL JOURNAL.

Gentlemen,

THE account publiſhed in your Journal for April, page 367, of the effects of the belladona applied to the eyes, previous to their being operated on for the cataract, induces me to trouble you with a few obſervations on the medical uſe of this plant.

Ray has related a caſe, where, from the application of the green leaf of the belladonna to the eye, the iris became ſo affected, that the pupil would not contract even in the brighteſt light. The leaf being removed, the eye was gradually reſtored to its former ſtate; and this was repeated three ſeparate times. It does not ſeem to have been known, that the dilatation of the pupil and paralytic ſtate of the iris, invariably followed the free application of the belladonna to the eye.

Twelve

Twelve years ago I became acquainted with this fact, from accidental and perfonal experience; and in 1791, I mentioned this remarkable effect of the belladonna to the Phyfical Society of Guy's, and at the fame time ftated my expectation, that advantage would arife from its application in certain difeafes of the eye. I have been in the habit of applying the juice and the extract of the belladonna diluted with water, very freely, in many cafes of inflammation of the eye for feveral years. In almoft every inftance where the belladonna has been brought in contact with the cornea, the pupil gradually dilates, and the iris becomes lefs and lefs fenfible to the ftimulus of light. The degree of dilatation can very much be regulated at pleafure, by repeating the application; in fome inftances, the iris has almoft difappeared, and temporary lofs of vifion enfued: the ufe of the belladonna collyrium has been continued through one and two weeks. When the belladonna is difcontinued, the eye in every inftance is reftored to its natural ftate; the iris recovers its fenfibility in about twenty-four or forty-eight hours. The application of the belladonna has lefs effect on the eyes of fome; and in feveral difeafes of the eye, the pupil is not fo readily dilated by it. The ufe of the belladonna does not in any way weaken or injure the fight; on the contrary, I have thought that a moderate artificial dilatation has, in my own cafe, rendered my vifion ftronger and more fteady; and that the glare of fun-fhine has been lefs offenfive to me. There is no doubt on my mind, but that the external ufe will be found greatly to facilitate the operations for the cataract. The belladonna collyrium is ferviceable in acute inflammations of the eye, and in inflammations arifing from external violence; in the fcrofulous opthalmia it has, with me, had no good effect; and it has alfo failed in an opthalmia, which afterwards turned out to be venereal. Specks, attended with confiderable inflammation, were in two inftances removed, by repeatedly infinuating the extract of the belladonna under the eye-lids: the expreffed juice diluted with water, is more effectual than a folution of the extract in water. I have thought the belladonna lotion more efficacious in cafes where the pupil is to be quickly dilated from its ufe. The beauty of the berries of this plant, has frequently led children to eat them in confiderable quantities; and in feveral inftances, twelve and even twenty-four hours have elapfed before any medicine has been exhibited, and the berries have continued to be voided by ftool during two and three days; yet, I have not heard of any cafe which has terminated fatally:—the berries do not appear to be fo deleterious as the leaves. From a very free application of the diluted extract of the belladonna to an eryfipelas of the leg,

leg, attended with excoriations, the pupil became dilated, with irritability of the iris, and temporary blindneſs, with pain of the head, convulſive twitchings, and that peculiar idiotic derangement of the mind, which ariſes from the belladonna having been taken into the ſtomach in improper quantities.

The belladonna has been given internally, joined with calomel and tartar emetic, in obſtinate caſes of chronic rheumatiſm, in certain cutaneous eruptions, and in caſes of ulcers and of tumours threatening to become cancerous, with good effect. Temporary amendment has followed its uſe in cancer; half a grain of the extract is a full doſe, and ſhould be repeated night and morning, or thrice a day, till the pupil is ſomewhat dilated: the dilatation of the pupil is an excellent criterion of a full doſe. The medicine ſhould not be puſhed further, but this effect be kept up. It is a great error to give medicine in too large doſes; and it has been well obſerved, that medicines, given in very large doſes, often loſe their peculiar effects, and act as mere ſtimulants. I am,

GENTLEMEN,

Your very obliged humble ſervant,

Dudley, June 14, 1800. T. WAINWRIGHT.

INOCULATION.

AT a time when the Vaccine Inoculation is nearly eſtabliſhed in this iſland, and when it has made a conſiderable progreſs in Ireland and on the continent, it may gratify the curioſity of many of our readers to be informed what kind of reception the Inoculation of the Small-Pox experienced on its firſt introduction into this kingdom. With this view we preſent them with the following account. In the year 1746, a ſmall pamphlet was publiſhed, intitled,

"*Several Cases in Physic; and one in particular, giving an Account of a Person who was inoculated for the Small-Pox, and had the Small-Pox upon the Inoculation, and yet had it again; together with two or three other very remarkable Small-Pox Cases, &c.* By PIERCE DOD, M.D. Fellow of the College of Phyſicians, and Phyſician to St. Bartholomew's Hoſpital."

The particular Caſe referred to in the above title-page is given as follows, at page 12 of the pamphlet.

"I did not think to trouble you with any thing more at preſent, but another Small-pox caſe being lately come to my hands, I was unwilling to loſe the opportunity of communicating it.

"It

" It is the cafe of a little boy, fon to Mr. Richards, member of parliament for Bridport in Dorfetfhire. He was inoculated about three years ago, at the age of about three, and had the Small-pox come out upon him to the number of fifty or fixty, and they maturated and fcabbed, and went off in the fame manner that that fort of pock, which was a regular and diftinct one, generally does: But about two years afterwards, *i. e.* about a year ago, he had the Small-pox again, and there came out between two and three hundred, which maturated and fcabbed likewife, and went through the fame ftages, and in the fame manner that the former did, only he was worfe before the eruption; but when that was completed, had no manner of diforder, except too much of an appetite, as is ufual, every now and then, in and after the Small-pox.

" This is authenticated to me by a letter which I have from a learned and experienced phyfician in thofe parts, Dr. Broarepp, who is likewife grandfather to the child, and attended him upon both occafions; and, whatever may be faid in evafion of other cafes, in which perfons that have been inoculated have had the Small-pox afterwards, as,—that the inoculation did not take place, there was no eruption, at leaft no variolous one, and the like,—is certainly an inftance that *all* is not to be depended upon that is given out in favour of, or is expected from Inoculation; and that it is, by no means, an effectual fecurity from having the Small-pox again.

" But, as it has been obferved long fince by the inimitable author of HUDIBRAS,

> " Surely the pleafure is as great
> " In being cheated, as to cheat."

or elfe it is impoffible that Inoculation fhould triumph fo much as it is faid that it does over all its oppofers."

This curious pamphlet was anfwered by Kirkpatrick, in the fame year, with great wit and feverity, under the following title:

" *A Letter to the real and genuine Pierce Dod, M. D. actual Physician to St. Bartholomew's Hospital; plainly exposing the low Absurdity or Malice of a late spurious Pamphlet, falsely ascribed to that learned Physician: with a full* ANSWER *to the* MISTAKEN *Case of a natural Small-pox, after taking it by Inoculation.*"

Thefe two interefting pamphlets are become very fcarce; though the latter was afterwards reprinted with the author's real name, and an apology for the feverity of fome of his animadverfions, which he underftood had diminifhed Dr. Dod's reputation and practice.

On

On the Perspirable Fluids; *by* Dr. Mitchill.

From the American Journals we present our Readers with the following very ingenious "*Speculations concerning the perspirable Fluids of Human Bodies.* In a Letter from Dr. Mitchill to Dr. Duncan.

"Sir,

"In reply to your last letter, I have to remark, that, of the fluids afforded by the human body, few have been more talked of, though, perhaps, none to less advantage, than those exhalations or effusions from its surface, denominated *perspiration* or *sweat*. The reason alleged wherefore so little has been experimentally done upon these fluids or humours, is, that they cannot be obtained in sufficient quantity; their volatility being such as to prevent the collection of either of them, to such an amount, that much certain information can be obtained about their peculiar natures and qualities.

"This is, indeed, in some degree, the case; and, without doubt, the difficulty of procuring, conveniently and frequently, parcels of the matter secreted from the skin, has retarded the progress of inquiry on this point. While, therefore, the fluids secreted in the liver, pancreas, kidneys, stomach, mouth, and almost every other part of the human frame, have been examined with great care and exactness, experimenters are yet very much behind-hand in their knowledge of the cuticular discharge.

"It is not my intention to strike the balance between the proportions of fluids secreted by the kidneys and the skin, on the one part, nor to adjust the difference between the exhalation by arteries or glands, and the inhalation by lymphatics or absorbents, on the other. My object is, to examine, by such means as, it appears to me, we are possessed of, what substances they are which compose the cuticular secretion in the time of health, what alterations it undergoes by accumulation and confinement in certain cases, and how pestilential fluids and fomites may be produced thereby.

"It will not, therefore, be necessary to give an anatomical description of the skin. All that will be offered will be capable of being comprehended without going into details upon that subject. Almost all that you need recollect is, that the *true skin* is furnished with arteries, veins, glands, excretory ducts, and lymphatics, and that it is covered over by a porous semi-transparent sort of sheath, called EPIDERMIS, or CUTI-

CLE, which is *insensible*, *bibulous*, and *exceedingly apt to grow dirty*; and this to a considerable degree without the consciousness of the wearer.

"A quantity of oil, secreted into the cells of the adipose membrane, underlays the true skin in most parts of the body; and the vessels and glands concerned in this function combine also a portion of the phlogiston (hydrogen) and carbon of the blood, into a sebaceous or greasy composition, to anoint and soften the cuticle. A portion of this fatty matter, in the time of health, is spread over the whole surface, though in greater quantity in some parts, and at sometimes, than at others. (Liquor oleosus—inflammabilis—cutem perungit. *Haller*, 5 Element. Physiolog. § 20.) The palms of the hands, the insides of the fingers, and the soles of the feet, are remarked for having the least of it.

"This oily fluid, with which the external surface of the body is smeared, was found, in the early stages of society, while yet dress was simple, and few or no clothes were worn, to be too copious in some constitutions, and to collect in greater quantity than the purposes of comfort required. When this happened, from its adhesive nature, particles of dust, and other things floating in the air, would readily stick to it, and occasion some degree of unpleasant sensation. To remove this unpleasantness, and the cause of it, instinct or accident led to the practice of *bathing*, or of purification with *water*; which being not capable of removing completely the foul and greasy collection, was afterwards quickened in its activity by *alkalies* and *soaps*, substances which experience proved to be very efficacious in ridding the skin of its incumbrance. It sometimes happened, too, that the oily liniment of the skin was too sparingly effused, or too quickly removed, and did not impart to the cuticle (which, it will be remembered, has neither nerves nor sensibility) that pliancy and suppleness which is essential to pleasant and perfect feeling. The epidermis was then prone to become horny, to crack, and to induce disagreeable or painful sensation. To relieve this inconvenience, the custom of applying *grease* or *oil* over the surface of the body seems to have been adopted by mankind likewise at a very early period; and in this way the deficiency of the matter of secretion was supplied by art.

"The use of water, and of alkaline lotions, sometimes rendered more active by being warmed, and the employment of oil and soft ointments, now and then aided by *manual friction*, seem to have obtained very extensively, from the mere comfortable effects they wrought, without any reasoning or theory whatever. Sometimes a person employed the *watery* application

tion only, ſometimes the *oily*, and then again he made uſe of *both*, in rapid ſucceſſion.

" But this adipoſe ſecretion is by no means a *pure oil.* According to circumſtances, it is occaſionally blended with *phosphoric*, *sulphuric*, *septic*, and a ſurpluſage of *carbonic* matter.

" And it is further altered, as far as its nature will permit, by the conſtant tranſmiſſion of that AQUEOUS FLUID, the INSENSIBLE PERSPIRATION, through the cuticle, and by the drops of SWEAT into which it is ſometimes condenſed; both formed by a coalition of a portion of the phlogiſton (hydrogen) of the blood, with a parcel of its oxygen, and this liquid ſerving as a menſtruum for certain other ſubſtances. The exceedingly great quantity of perſpired matter inceſſantly paſſing off from every exhalant pore of the ſkin, leaves behind, as it evaporates, ſome of its more fixed, ſaline, and feculent parts, along with, or upon, the greaſy covering of the cuticle. A portion of carbon, phoſphorus, and ſepton, with, ſometimes, an overplus of oxygen, ſeem to accompany this effuſion of the ſkin, and, in ſome quantity, to remain behind, after the water has evaporated.

" It was remarked before, that the cuticle was inſenſible, bibulous, and, of courſe, exceedingly apt to grow dirty. How can it be otherwiſe? The cuticle has neither nerves nor blood-veſſels, and there is little or no reaſon to believe that it poſſeſſes organization. It is therefore, in ſtrictneſs, leſs a part of the living body, than a kind of tight ſhirt, or cloſe-ſetting tunic, drawn over the whole ſurface of the body. This ſhirt or tunic of cuticle may be conſidered as a foreign wrapper, or piece of natural clothing; and, like every other foreign thing which enwraps the body, is liable to become charged with ſuch ſubſtances as are excreted from the TRUE SKIN within it. The foulneſs of this NATURAL SHIRT is a frequent occurrence. Almoſt every body lets it get dirty. When the naſtineſs is very conſiderable, the poiſonous or ſtimulant matter entangled there, irritates or inflames the organ of feeling, with which it lies in contact, and produces various itchings, pimples, eruptions, blotches, tetters, ſores, &c. being a PRINCIPAL CAUSE of the diſtempers of the ſkin. To a correct mind, *a dirty cuticle will appear to be a dirty ſhirt.* If the former could be ſtripped off, and cleanſed in the waſh-tub, like the latter, there might poſſibly be a convenience in it. This is, however, of ſmall moment, ſince we know the cuticle can be well cleanſed without being taken off.

" The modern uſe of white linen and cotton, as articles of raiment, enables us to judge, with tolerable accuracy, what material it is, which ſhirts, made of thoſe kinds of cloth, and

worn next the cuticle, receive from the PERSPIRATION and SWEAT. What the garments imbibe must have passed first through the exhalant arteries or excretory ducts, then undergone a further change while remaining in and about the CUTICLE OF FIRST SHIRT, and afterwards have been transmitted, by rubbing or wiping, to the linen fibres or cotton filaments OF THE SECOND. The animal matter which befouls the OUTER SHIRT is a good indication of that which adheres TO THE INNER. For, as clean linen and cotton become soiled very soon by lying in contact with any part of the human body, what they receive must be principally derived from the cuticle which they touch and absterge.

"The uncleanness of SHIRTS, DRAWERS, and STOCKINGS, may, therefore, be deemed to be matter wiped from the CUTICLE, and derived to the cuticle from the vessels and ducts of the subjacent TRUE SKIN. An examination, then, of the facts relative to clothing grown foul by long wearing next the cuticle, may be considered as virtually an examination of the cuticle itself, and of the excreted matters which stick to it.

"I. One general property of all these matters, and of clothes tainted by them, is, that alkaline salts and soaps will seize, neutralize, and extract them; the garments being thereby rendered wholesome and clean. An unquestionable effect of such applications is to remove the *greasy* or *unctuous* matter communicated to them from the cuticle. But this is not all— The *watery* as well as the *oily* part of the perspirable matter contains the BASES OF ACIDS. A portion of oxygen combining with this fat material, imparts to it more or less of rancidity. Another portion, uniting to carbon, forms carbonic acid, and this, volatilized by heat, is converted into carbonic acid gas. Another portion of the acidifying principle, uniting to the phosphorus, turns it to phosphoric acid: while the septon (azot), if it happens to combine with caloric alone, flies off in the form of azotic air; or, if it makes a junction with oxygen, constitutes, with it, SEPTIC ACID. Oils, being capable of uniting with the stronger acids, especially with the septic, and probably, also, with the phosphoric and carbonic, there can be little doubt that these acids, or some of them, or some part of some of them, join with the adipose matter into a sort of ACID SOAP, on the cuticle and shirt. This acidifying process, whereby carbon, phosphorus, and septon, unite to oxygen, takes place, NOT BEFORE SECRETION, but AFTER the perspired matter is deposited on the cuticle, or lodged in the shirt. The formation of acids, in this case, is not the immediate effect of vital movement at all, but results from chemical attraction going on among the particles of the fluids,

AFTER

AFTER EXCRETION, as in other inanimate matter; neither the cuticle, nor the fluids which besmear and bedew it, having any living energy to controul or modify the laws of chemical action. Hence proceeds that SOUR SMELL from clothes in which sailors and labouring men have sweated profusely, which, though obvious to the senses, and familiar to the wearers and to washer-women, remains unknown to hardly any body but philosophers.

[To be continued.]

STATE OF DISEASES IN LONDON.

Account of Diseases in an Eastern District of London, from the 20th of May to the 20th of June, 1800.

	No. of Cases.
ACUTE DISEASES.	
Typhus mitior	7
Sore Throat	2
Small-Pox	1
Cough	9
Dyspnœa	4
Cough with Dyspnœa	9
Hæmoptoe	4
Phthisis Pulmonalis	4
Gastrodynia	6
Diarrhœa	20
Colica	3
Colica Pictonum	2
Hæmorrhois	5
Ascites	4
Anasarca	6
Hydrothorax	2
Cephalalgia	6
Vertigo	4
Epilepsia	3
Paralysis	2
Hysteria	6
Dysuria	3
Chronic Rheumatism	16
PUERPERAL DISEASES.	
Peritonitis	2
Menorrhagia lochialis	5
INFANTILE DISEASES.	
Ophthalmia purulenta	2
Aphthæ	5
Rachitis	1
Scrophula	4
Hooping Cough	3

Having arrived at that season of the year in which those diseases, which form a large proportion of the list in the winter months, usually decrease in number, or abate in the violence of their symptoms, we might expect that this class of maladies should hardly make their appearance on the list.

The great vicissitude, however, in the temperature of the atmosphere, has protracted some of these complaints to an unusual period. Disorders of the bowels also, which were taken notice of in the last report, form an important part of the present list.

Cases of diarrhœa have been uncommonly numerous; have been protracted to a considerable length, and have been liable to return upon the least irregularity of regimen or diet.

Diseases

Diseases admitted under the Care of the Physicians of the Westminster Hospital, from the 20th of May to the 21st of June, 1800.

Continued Fever	16
Pleurisy	1
Sore Throat	1
Amenorrhœa	2
Anasarca	6
Angina Pectoris	1
Ascites	2
Asthenia	2
Catarrh	1
Cephalæa	1
Cholera	2
Cough	4
Diarrhœa	5
Dyspepsia	1
Dysuria	2
Enterodynia	2
Hæmoptysis	2
Hæmorrhois	1
Hysteria	3
Impetigo	1
Jaundice	1
Leucorrhœa	3
Lithiasis	1
Rheumatism	5
Palpitatio	1
Syncope	1
Sciatica	1
Struma	3
Syphilis	1
Tinea	2
Vertigo	1
Worms	1

MONTHLY REPORT of DISEASES,

Admitted under the Care of the PHYSICIANS of the FINSBURY DISPENSARY, St. John's Square, Clerkenwell.

The District, in which the Patients of the Finsbury Dispensary are visited, comprehends the Parishes of St. James, and of St. John, Clerkenwell; of St. Luke; of St. Sepulchre within and without; of St. Bartholomew, the Great and the Less; the Liberties of the Rolls, and of Glass-House Yard; the Town of Islington; the Parishes of St. Pancras; of St. Andrew, Holborn; and of St. George the Martyr, Queen's-square. This Tract of Ground may properly enough be termed, a North Western District of the Metropolis.

LIST of DISEASES, &c. from May 20, to June 20.

	No. of Cases.
Hæmorrhois	4
Worms	7
Prurigo	11
Schrophula	3
Jaundice	2
Paralysis	3
Cough and Dyspnœa	14
Dyspepsis	27
Chronic Rheumatism	12
Acute Rheumatism	2
Lumbago	4
Menorrhagia	10
Diarrhœa	6
Hæmoptysis	6
Sore Throat	1
Continued Fever	10
Pneumonia	2
Dysentery	3
Amenorrhœa	13
Leucorrhœa	9
Asthenia	10
Phthisis	12
Hysteria	6
Dropsy	7
Cephalæa	5
Infantile Diseases	18
Mania	3

It

It appears from the above Report, that the diseases which have principally prevailed during the last month are *dyspeptic*, or those that originate from some fault in the organs of digestion. This is, in a certain degree, to be accounted for by the alteration that has taken place in the temperature of the air, which, whilst it has proved more favourable to the relief of catarrhal and rheumatic affections, may, by its increased warmth, have a tendency to relax the tone of the stomach, and thus predispose to those morbid symptoms which are more peculiarly connected with that viscus.

The disorders of the stomach which have occurred, might, in a large proportion of cases, be clearly traced in men, to the abuse of spirituous liquors; and in women, in addition to the abuse of spirituous liquors, to which, after they have once passed over the bounds of sobriety, they are, more than the other sex, completely and irretrievably devoted, an intemperance in the use of tea. Although this, in a *moral* view, is surely far less dangerous than inebriating stimuli, is not, perhaps, much less so in its physical effects upon the constitution. Besides, that from the degree of debility and depression which it induces, a person is naturally led to have recourse to what are called *tonic* medicines, or to exhilirating cordials.

A remarkable case has occurred of an idiotic girl, about fifteen years of age, who is uniformly thrown into a state of the most violent madness by the hearing of any kind of instrumental music, such as the ringing of bells, the notes of an organ, &c. After the hearing these or any other similar instrument, she, for hours, endeavours to imitate the sound with her voice. What makes this case still more singular, is, that according to her mother's account, she is not in any degree affected in the same way by *singing*.

There was another case of mania, which the sister of the patient attributed to the influence of religious enthusiasm. But whether, in this particular instance, the religion gave rise to the insanity, or the insanity to the religion, it was not in the power of the medical attendant to ascertain.

One of the instances of cephalæa, in the above list, was remarkable from its alternating with an ulceration of the breast. Whilst the latter, either by time, or the application of surgical skill, gradually got better, the former as gradually came on. This alternation had taken place in repeated instances. The pain in the head was at its greatest violence at the period of the patient's first attendance at the Dispensary, when the sore was completely healed. As a substitute for the discharge thus stopped, an issue was ordered in the arm, in consequence of which, and partly perhaps in consequence of the Peruvian bark, which

which was alſo preſcribed, and the enjoyment of country air, the patient for ſome time paſt has not, in any conſiderable degree, ſuffered from either of the complaints with which ſhe had been before afflicted.

In the caſes of amenorrhœa that have occurred during the period that the drawer up of this report has attended the diſpenſary, the preparations of ſteel have exhibited a decided ſuperiority over thoſe of the Peruvian bark, or indeed, any other remedy taken into the ſtomach.

Electricity in one inſtance proved almoſt immediately ſucceſsful. It is to caſes like theſe, where a *ſudden agitation* of the ſyſtem is required, that this ſtimulus ſeems peculiarly adapted. In a caſe of paralyſis in which it was adminiſtered, it produced ſome appearance of temporary relief, but the patient died on the ſucceeding day. Perhaps it may be laid down as a general rule, that *chronic* diſeaſes are not to be cured by *violent ſtimuli*, but rather by the application of thoſe gentle remedies that gradually reſtore the ſtrength of the conſtitution.

A caſe equally remarkable and melancholy, has remained for a very long period under the care of the diſpenſary. It is that of a young woman who, for many years paſt, has been confined to her bed in a ſtate of univerſal ſpaſm. She lies rigid and motionleſs, with her eyes more than half cloſed, and every other organ of ſenſe almoſt completely ſhut againſt external impreſſion. The phyſician who attended her, by ſpeaking in her ear as loud as it was poſſible for him to do, ſucceeded only ſo far as to produce a motion of the lips that betrayed an ineffectual endeavour for utterance. It ſeems to be a caſe in which there is an habitual abſence of actual ſenſation, although, by ſome violently exciting cauſe, the ſenſibility may, at times, be imperfectly awakened. Lying in ſuch a ſtate, with ſcarcely any ſymptom of vitality but a feeble reſpiration, ſhe can be regarded as little elſe than a *breathing corpſe*. Upon this curious caſe being ſtated to a perſon of diſtinguiſhed learning and acuteneſs, he ſuggeſted it as a poſſibility, that conſciouſneſs might ſtill *exiſt*, although it was unable to *appear*, in conſequence of the voluntary muſcles uſually employed in expreſſing it, refuſing in this inſtance to diſcharge their accuſtomed office. This, it is to be hoped, is not actually the caſe. Nothing is more terrific to the imagination than the idea of being buried alive; and what mode of being buried alive can be conceived more truly horrible than for the *ſoul to be entombed in the body!*

J. R.
W. W.

Hatton Garden.

To

To the Editors of the Medical and Phyſical Journal.

GENTLEMEN,

IT muſt give great pleaſure to every lover of, and well-wiſher to, the ſcience of medicine, to ſee that ſeveral of your Correſpondents have called the attention of the profeſſion to the ſubject of Quackery; which is likely to become more extenſively pernicious, from the public teſtimony which a few perſons in exalted ſtations have thought it incumbent upon them to bear to the efficacy of certain advertiſed infallible remedies. The danger obviouſly reſulting from Empiriciſm will be readily admitted by all who have been regularly educated, and are converſant with the powers of ſimple and compound medicines, and the œconomy of the human ſyſtem; but it is not ſo eaſy to diſcover a method of checking the public progreſs of this evil. The plan which your correſpondent, Aliquis, propoſes of referring the ſubject to Parliament, would certainly be effectual, could an act be paſſed, forbidding the *advertizing* any kind of noſtrum in any news-paper, hand-bill, or in any other way whatever; for it is by theſe means that the public attention is conſtantly directed to the proprietors, whoſe names would ſoon fall into contempt, if their ſkill and reputation were analyzed by the moſt proper teſt — the number of *real* cures which they wrought. So well aware of this fact are theſe infallible doctors themſelves, that they find it neceſſary to vary the form of their advertiſements, to obtain even *them* a reading.

Mr. Bartley has, with probable ſucceſs, (in No. XV.) brought into view ſome facts, to prove the danger, expence, and folly which thoſe run into, who are the dupes of Quackery. It appears to me, that the frequent expoſure of ſuch facts would have the beſt effect: but in order that they might, it is neceſſary they ſhould be circulated through the ſame channel as the doctors' advertiſements; for the readers of your excellent Journal are not the perſons likely to be hurt by the ignorant and preſumptuous empyric. It is, generally ſpeaking, the middling and lower ranks of people who are the ſubjects and dupes of this impoſture: And that the public may have the better opinion of the medicines, the proprietors commonly inform them, that, "*by the bleſſing of God*," they undertake, with their powders, potions, or balſams, to cure all diſorders. Thus ignorance and blaſphemy unite in picking the pockets and ruining the conſtitutions of thouſands. It might be well if the following general obſervation, amongſt others that might be mentioned, could any way be impreſſed upon the public mind: —

The pretenſion to infallibility in any one medicine, in curing any one diſorder, is abſurd; much more ridiculous is it to ſuppoſe, that any medicine will remove *all kinds* of complaints: for every medicine poſſeſſes active properties, or it does not. If it be active, it muſt be dangerous to apply it, indiſcriminately, to perſons of every age, and without regard to their habits of living. Such an active medicine may be very efficacious in ſtrengthening a debilitated conſtitution, but would be highly injurious if exhibited for acute rheumatiſm, or any other inflammatory diſorder, and, *vice versa*; conſequently, it is unwiſe and unſafe to apply the ſame remedy in all caſes. Should the medicine be inactive (which is doubtleſs often the caſe, or more miſchief muſt follow) it can be of no other utility than to work upon the imagination; thereby amuſing the patient, while his pockets are rifled, unperceived.

It is to be lamented, that while many are robbed of their money and health by mercenary and rapacious impoſtors, not a few are led into error and danger by the noſtrums of thoſe who are actuated by the pureſt motives in recommending them to the public, through the channel of various periodical publications. I allude now particularly to the circumſtances of balm, barm, or yeaſt, having been, in the moſt unqualified manner, held out as a certain cure in *putrid fevers*. That which is ſimple in its nature, and eaſy to be come at, is ſure to go down with the multitude. It is not denied, that the fixed air in the balm may occaſionally have ſome good effect in putrid diſeaſes; but I condemn the conduct of thoſe who, in contending with ſo dangerous and powerful an enemy as typhus fever, place yeaſt in the front and heat of the battle, whilſt bark, wine, and opium are put in the rear, or, perhaps, ſtationed at a diſtance as a "corps de reserve."

In the Armenian Magazine for Auguſt laſt, a very brilliant diſplay is exhibited of the wonderful effects of this wonderful medicine. Amongſt other caſes, "too tedious to mention," a man is ſtated to have been "in the laſt ſtage of putrid fever," when the yeaſt was given, "diluted with water," and the "next morning he was apparently well, *and walking in his garden*." So in the Monthly Magazine for laſt November, it is aſſerted, that "a ſtrong Dutch girl, brought low with a putrid fever, was ordered ſome yeaſt, and was *immediately* cured." I have frequent opportunities of ſeeing and treating putrid fevers, but have never witneſſed theſe ſudden recoveries from the laſt ſtage of them to "walking about in gardens." But as people in general are ignorant of the diſorder, no wonder if, being ill judges of the moſt ſuitable remedies, they

throw

throw out to a ſinking friend even a rope of ſand, that is handed to them by a kind but miſtaken neighbour.

I lately attended the ſervant of a gentleman, in the laſt ſtage of typhus; pulſe 140; ſubſultus tendinum, &c. I informed him, I thought the caſe a dangerous one. He ſaid, he wiſhed me to try yeaſt, as he had ſeen it ſtrongly recommended in the Monthly Magazine. I told him that, to give it a fair trial, I ſhould lay aſide every thing elſe. I did ſo; and the ſecond ſpoonful of yeaſt brought on ſuch a purging as had well nigh carried her off; but by returning to opium, wine, and bark, ſhe happily recovered. About a week after, another young woman, who had been ill nine days, and was covered with petechiæ, and even vibices, was directed by her maſter to take the yeaſt; and if ſhe was no better in the morning, to ſend for me. In about four hours after ſhe took the yeaſt, a violent purging came on, which I could not check, and ſhe died the next day. There were five others in the family, who were all ſucceſſively attacked, and to whom I exhibited opium and volatile alkali pretty plentifully; they all recovered excepting an infant two months old, to whom it was impoſſible to give any thing. Thus we ſee, that however well "a ſtrong Dutch girl" may bear *working* with yeaſt, it will not be ſafe to have recourſe to ſuch means in recovering our fair country-women from putrid fevers. The publiſher of this noſtrum, in the Armenian Magazine, tells us, he was firſt led to this idea from the fact that a piece of putrid meat is ſweetened by being ſuſpended over working beer. But to conclude from hence, that yeaſt (that is, the fixed air in it) will correct the putridity of the blood, and other animal circulating fluids, is fallacious; for it is not generally admitted that ſuch putridity actually exiſts in the blood: But ſuppoſe it does; if we allow ourſelves to judge of the effects of any ſubſtance on the living fibre and ſyſtem, from its known action on *dead* matter, we ſhall be led into the moſt dangerous miſtakes. The concentrated vitriolic acid preſerves dead animal matter from putrefaction; but we know that it cannot be ſwallowed with ſafety, except in ſmall quantities and diluted with water. So, on the other hand, humidity is known to promote the putrefaction of dead animals, while water may be ſwallowed, and externally applied, not only with ſafety, but even with advantage, in putrid fevers. Upon the whole then, it is plain, that unleſs the public in general were well acquainted with the various diſeaſes incident to mankind, it muſt be dangerous to commit the treatment of them to ſuch unſkilful hands. We do not act ſo in the other profeſſions. Does not the client employ counſel learned in the law to plead his cauſe? Will a wiſe government entruſt the com-

mand of its armies and navies to men unacquainted with military and naval tactics?

Permit me to embrace this opportunity of tranſmitting to you two caſes of *Croup* ſucceſsfully treated with the Digitalis, which, I think, promiſes to be a very efficacious remedy in that dreadful and generally fatal diſorder. I ſhould have waited to ſee its effects in a greater number of caſes, before I had ſent you the reſult, but am deſirous of throwing out the hint to practitioners in general as early as poſſible, and ſhall be happy to ſee it has been improved upon with the deſired ſucceſs in their future treatment of the croup.

Mary Bell, four years of age, was brought to me about twenty-four hours after being attacked with the uſual ſymptoms of croup. The hoarſeneſs, ſhrill voice, and dyſpnœa were very conſiderable. I ordered five drops of tinct. digitalis to be given her in water every four hours; and the next day ſhe was quite free from the complaint, which never returned.

Mary Millard, a year and half old, was attacked on the 11th of this month with hoarſeneſs, a barking cough, and great dyſpnœa. I ſaw her about twenty hours after the firſt appearance of theſe ſymptoms, and found her extremely reſtleſs, with a very quick pulſe. I ordered five drops of the tinct. digitalis every four hours. 12th, Symptoms relieved; p. ſtill quick; has had one ſtool. Increaſed the doſe to ſix drops:—at night p. leſs frequent; three ſtools; hoarſeneſs and barking almoſt gone. 13th, Still ſome barking, but coughs leſs frequently:—8 o'clock at night, very reſtleſs; hoarſeneſs and dyſpnœa increaſed; p. very quick. Cont. tinctura. 14th, Slept well; frequent ſtools; dyſpnœa and hoarſeneſs much relieved. Adde tinct. opii gt. ij. ſing. dos. digitalis. 8 o'clock at night, five ſtools ſince morning; p. much leſs frequent; dyſpnœa and hoarſeneſs ſtill better. 15th, A good night; two ſtools; pulſe calm; dyſpnœa quite gone; ſome hoarſeneſs remains. 16th, Symptoms of the croup quite gone. 21ſt, Continues free from complaint. I am,

Gentlemen,

Your moſt obedient ſervant,

GEO. CUSTANCE.

Kidderminſter,
May 22, 1800.

To

To Dr. BRADLEY.

SIR,

IF I had waited for the preſent increaſing numbers of impartial teſtimonies and indubitable facts in favour of Vaccine Inoculation, I need not have troubled you to inſert this letter in your uſeful Publication; but as, in the onſet, I did (with more zeal than prudence) oppoſe, what I then conſidered an innovation in practice, (by confounding the uncertain effects of the caſual, and, perhaps, ſpurious cow-pox, with the real advantages evidently ariſing from this diſeaſe when inoculated) I now think it right, in juſtice to Dr. Jenner and the medical public, to declare,

That, in the courſe of my practice, I had occaſion to make trial, and do approve of vaccine inoculation; yet, I think it ſhould only be conducted by practitioners who have taken proper care to aſcertain the genuine diſeaſe.

I remain, with great reſpect,

SIR,

Your obliged and conſtant reader,

Gloceſter, May 29, 1800. CHARLES COOKE.

To the Editors of the Medical and Phyſical Journal.

GENTLEMEN,

FROM my not having been in the habit of reading your Phyſical Journals, I remained till this day, (when a friend put the whole of them into my hands) nearly ignorant of the variety of debates which have taken place upon the important ſubject of Vaccine Inoculation. Dr. Jenner's two firſt publications, a paper of Dr. Pearſon's, and an early one of Dr. Woodville's, comprehended the whole of my reading on the diſeaſe; but, I have been by no means an idle practitioner in the buſineſs, and I have not failed to endeavour to ſatisfy myſelf completely in every doubtful point regarding it: and I find, in that reſpect, I have ſucceeded quite as well as my brother inoculators. If you can afford me a page or two in your next Pamphlet, I will mention a few particulars which, I hope, may not be unſatisfactory. Early in laſt Spring, Dr. Pearſon (of whoſe acuteneſs and indefatigable perſeverance too much cannot be ſaid) ſent me ſome vaccine virus, with which I inoculated ſeveral perſons; in two inſtances only it took effect;

on

on a man and a little girl: The former about the ninth day became ill, and so continued for several days, when a few *pink, fiery-looking blisters* appeared on his body, and then followed a very numerous eruption, exactly like small-pox of the distinct kind; they took the usual course of variolous pustules, and the man did well. From one of those *pink vesications*, I inoculated his wife, and she had the *true cow-pox*, with only *local pustules*: the man's son, who never had the small-pox, remained with his father the whole time, but did not catch the disorder. From the woman I inoculated three children, and they all had eruptions of the *variolous kind*, and were very ill during the eruptive fever. From those I inoculated a few others, some of whom had eruptions, and some had not. At this time, I was also using matter which originated with the little girl, who took it when the man did, and which I soon learnt to prefer, she having the disease in the mildest form possible; and from this, in no one instance did eruptions occur, in upwards of a hundred patients, from two weeks old to eighty years, whom I inoculated last Spring. During the Summer I wholly discontinued it; in the Autumn, through the kindness of Dr. Pearson, I again obtained some virus, and have inoculated as many more, without having one eruptive case. The facts I can state to be clearly demonstrated by my extensive inoculation, are these: That the disease, when unattended with eruptions similar to variolous, (which, by the bye, notwithstanding such high authority as Dr. Pearson's, I believe to make no part of it) is a *thousand times more trifling than small-pox*, scarcely having had a patient sufficiently ill to prevent amusement or labour:—That the *local inflammation* of the arm is not to be dreaded; I never had occasion for any other application than a bit of rag, when the pustule has been rubbed off; that rag has been singed:—That it is not an *infectious disease*; to determine which, I selected about forty people in our workhouse, and inoculated half of them, some in both arms, and fixed them to sleep with those who had not had it; but in no instance was it communicated to the others. I broke the pustules, and frequently made them smell the parts, but to no effect. After giving the disease to the remainder, I, beyond cavil, ascertained it to be a *perfect security against the small-pox*, for I immediately inoculated the whole party with the most virulent variolous matter I could procure; but nothing ensued, except local superficial inflammation for the first six or seven days. I then introduced a wretched family, just recovered from very bad small-pox, their dirty clothes unchanged, and divided them in different beds among them, but to no purpose. I then inoculated with cow-pox an infant, and as soon

as

as I was ſatisfied it had taken, I put it, and kept it in the bed with its ſiſter, who had the moſt dreadful confluent ſmall-pox, but no inconvenience enſued. Moſt of theſe workhouſe children I have this ſpring inoculated again, both with variolous and vaccine matter, but nothing happens: this ſhews the vaccine effect to be a *laſting* ſecurity againſt *itſelf*, as well as the *ſmall-pox*. I have inoculated ſeveral people with it, who have had the ſmall-pox, but it has only proved, they are *not ſuſceptible* of the diſeaſe. If a perſon be inoculated with vaccine lymph, and the operation be repeated a few days after, if the firſt have taken, as that advances, the ſecond, though taken alſo, diſappears. Beſides the caſes above noticed, moſt of the others whom I have inoculated, have had variolous matter inſerted afterwards, for the ſatisfaction of themſelves or friends.

I muſt now ſay ſomething reſpecting the caſes where *puſtules* appear. I believe they are to be accounted for this way:—Originally, ſome how or other, the vaccine virus gets intermixed with variolous; in this ſtate it is inſerted into the arm together; they are both acting on the ſurrounding parts, *locally and diſtinctly:* if, perchance, the vaccine fermentation goes on the faſteſt, *that* gives the ſtimulus to the conſtitution, and the cow-pox is produced; if the variolous do, the ſmall-pox is the conſequence. Should they happen to keep tolerable pace with each other, I think both get into the habit, as in the caſe of my firſt patient. Now, in drawing a thread through this mixed local puſtule, if you ſuppoſe it to be merely mixed, and not, if I may uſe the expreſſion, chemically combined, (which by no analogy we can allow) one part of that thread may have particles of variolous, the other of vaccine virus adhering to it; and, thus account for my firſt little girl's caſe, and thoſe who followed, &c. All the local puſtules I ever ſaw in theſe eruptive caſes, contained a fluid of a different *conſiſtence and appearance* from the true vaccine lymph, approaching very nearly to pus. If the thing could have been procured from *greaſy-heeled horſes*, I ſhould have had the means of propagating the diſeaſe ſome months ſooner than I had, as I left no experiment untried upon my poor cows to produce it. As to its calling out *ſcrofulous complaints*, I never knew an inſtance of it; and unleſs it be in caſe of puſtules, I ſhould think it cannot be expected. I never knew any cutaneous diſeaſe follow it; and during my practiſing this new mode, I have never thought it neceſſary to give a doſe of phyſic either after or before inoculation. I muſt not conclude without noticing a circumſtance which has frequently happened to me when I have been neceſſitated to uſe *ſtale matter*, and which, at the

time

time of my being leſs experienced, would moſt probably have led me into fatal errors. Upon introducing a bit of thread, which has been impregnated with vaccine lymph *only a few days*, inflammation has quickly followed, and, to a haſty obſerver, not very unlike the true inflammation; this runs on five, ſix, and ſeven days, then it ſuperficially ſuppurates, and for the moſt part ſcurfs over; but occaſionally it has continued a ſore ſome time longer, producing a degree of illneſs, &c. but never the genuine cow-pox. This ſhews, that the ſpecific powers of the vaccine fluid are ſoon loſt by putrefaction, and that the part is affected in the ſame manner it would be by any other putrid animal ſubſtance placed under the cuticle; and all thoſe inſtances enumerated by practitioners, as having been ſuſceptible of ſmall-pox after inoculation with the vaccine, are to be traced to this ſource of deception. I am,

GENTLEMEN,

Your obedient humble ſervant,

Seven Oaks, May 19, 1800. T. M. KELSON.

The Mitchillean Theory defended.

[Extracted from a Letter of Profeſſor MITCHILL, of New York, to Mr. PERKINS, of Leiceſter Square, Proprietor of the Metallic Tractors. Dated Columbia College, April 3, 1800.]

I Think the *nitric* acid is ſufficiently proved to be a mixture of *three* acids, in the pureſt form in which it is obtained by chemiſts.

Firſt, There is a quantity of ſea-ſalt mingled with the pureſt ſalt petre, of which it is rarely or never diveſted. This affords muriatic acid, which comes over firſt in the diſtillation, and mingles with the product in the receiver. The exiſtence of this acid is proved by adding nitrate of ſilver, which is immediately rendered turbid, and precipitated in a white mucilaginous ſediment.

Secondly, A portion of the ſulphuric acid employed to decompoſe the nitre, is volatalized by the heat, and riſes in vapour too; and thus a portion of ſulphureous acid is blended with the diſtilled ſpirit in the receiver. This is proved by adding nitrat or acetat of lead, which falls down in the form of the ſulphat of lead. Theſe precipitates are formed in all the forms and ſamples of nitrous acid that I ever ſaw.

Thirdly, It being known that the ſulphuric and ſeptic acids

are

are mixible with each other, it muſt often happen that they combine *before* the mixture meets with potaſs to neutralize it.

Fourthly, As it is equally well eſtabliſhed, that ſeptic and muriatic acids will enter into union, it follows that theſe two, *very commonly indeed*, are blended together, *before* they are connected with the fixed vegetable alkali. It is therefore ordinarily impoſſible to procure one drop of pure and naked ſeptic acid, by any decompoſition of nitre that can be inſtituted. The acid obtained is always an *aqua regia*, or ſome ſuch thing; and the aſſertion that *aqua fortis* diſſolves ſilver, and *aqua regia* gold, is not correct. Both theſe acids are modifications of *aqua regia*; or, in other words, mixtures of various things with the original acid of putrefaction.

Fifthly, Such being the conſtitution of nitrous acid, the *nitric acid* muſt be equally a mixture or farrago of things; and thus, of courſe, is nitrous air, nitrous acid vapour, nitrous oxyd, and every thing of the ſort, procured by art, or by the proceſſes in the laboratory. I wiſh the gentlemen who preſcribe and publiſh ſo much about theſe ſubſtances, would conſider a little more attentively the compoſition of the things they employ; we ſhould then have leſs contradiction and obſcurity on the ſubject.

Sixthly, You may rely on it, therefore, that the *analyſis* of *nitrous acid* into *azote* and *oxygen*, is not correct—*There never has been ſuch a pure ſpecimen of nitrous acid in this world*, obtained by diſtillation from ſalt petre. I wiſh that the true compoſition of theſe forms and mixtures of ſeptic acid might be properly enquired into and underſtood.

Your's, with the higheſt conſideration and regard,

SAMUEL LATHOM MITCHILL.

To the Editors of the Medical and Phyſical Journal.

Gentlemen,

If the following, in your opinion, can be of the ſmalleſt ſupport to the uſe of cold affuſion in fevers, and be deemed worthy a place in your truly valuable Journal, its inſertion will oblige,

Gentlemen,

Your very obedient ſervant,

JAMES SCHAW, Surgeon.

His Majeſty's Ship, Tourterelle,
Spithead, May 12, 1800.

THE affuſion of cold water on the ſurface of the body in typhus and other fevers, ſo ably treated of, and recommended, by Dr. Currie, appears to me a ſubject deſerving much attention, both as a ſimply efficacious remedy, and for the eaſe with which it may always be procured; it therefore becomes a duty incumbent on every practitioner who has experienced its effects, to communicate the reſult of his practice to the public.

From various opportunities which I have had of obſerving this method of treatment, and from having frequently put its effects to the teſt myſelf, I feel fully warranted in aſſerting that, in every caſe where it is judiciouſly employed, its efficacy will invariably be evinced. In country practice, when the general affuſion could not be uſed on account of the prejudices of the lower order of men, I have ſeen different inſtances, where even the partial application of cold water to the face, neck, breaſt and arms was of infinite ſervice, and, indeed, I hardly ever ſaw it uſed without ſome very palpable advantage ariſing.

In the Medical Journal for laſt March, I obſerve a paper from ſome perſon, aſſuming the appellation of VIATOR, wherein the author ſeems to queſtion the propriety of the practice, and ſuggeſts that it may be productive of obſtinate diarrhœa when unſucceſsful. Without entering into controverſy with your anonymous correſpondent, I ſhall only recommend to him to give it a fair trial, ere he ſtarts any more objections, when, I may ſafely prognoſticate, he will find his theoretical inſinuations quickly vaniſh before the peremptory and uncontroulable evidence of fact and experience. A late traveller, who ſeems to differ a little in this opinion with our Viator, informs us, the practice was by no means an uncommon one in Abyſſinia; and, if I miſtake not, he ſays, the water was copiouſly thrown over the patient as he lay in bed, in all ſtages of highly putrid and other fevers, with, I believe, manifeſt advantage. Its good effects are very well known to many who viſit more ſouthern climes. A meritorious practitioner of my acquaintance, who has made repeated voyages to Africa, aſſured me that he found the moſt beneficial conſequences reſult from a copious uſe of it. He uſed to place the patient under a pump, and allow the water to play over him in a full ſtream, or daſh it over his body in buckets full, with admirable effects.

Mr. Martineau, in a paper inſerted in the Medical Journal for January laſt, ſeems to approve its application in caſes of internal inflammation, and ſays, that no inconvenience aroſe from it even where pneumonic complaints were preſent. With all due deference to Mr. M's opinion, and without any intention to implicate in the leaſt the accuracy of his obſervations, I beg

I beg leave to remark, that, in three cafes which fell under my own infpection, where catarrhal fymptoms attended the fever, the cold ablution appeared to do evident mifchief, by increafing the cough, and confequent irritation, to fuch a pitch as almoft totally precluded reft; which, of neceffity, compelled the remedy to be abandoned.

The beneficial effects of cold lavation in febrile diforders, may, perhaps, be farther exemplified by an inftance that occurred in the Royal Infirmary at Edinburgh. The difeafe was fmall-pox; the fubject a Negro lad about 17. He was brought into the Infirmary with all the fymptoms of a pretty acute fever. No eruption was prefent, and the affufion of cold water was directed by, I believe, Dr. Home. This, to the beft of my recollection, was performed twice, when the eruption appeared, and put a ftop to its further ufe. The puftules were extremely few in number, and the attendant fever fo exceedingly mild, that the patient walked about the ward during the whole continuance of the difeafe.—But to relate a cafe:

A. M. a failor, ætat. 30, of a robuft healthy conftitution, was attacked, on the 22d of October laft, with all the ufual fymptoms of fever, which he attributed to cold. He had an emetic given, which operated very well as fuch, but produced no other fenfible effect. On the 23d, in the morning, his pulfe was 116 in the minute, his fkin very hot; he had great thirft, and complained of fevere head-ach; had a ftool during the night. My hand acted the part of a thermometer, and I directed the application of cold water, which was performed while I felt his arm with one hand, and held my watch in the other to mark the change I expected. The affufion was fcarce finifhed when his pulfe fell to 90; he was then dried and put to bed. I vifited him in half an hour, when his pulfe was 92, and regular, fkin cool, head-ach much relieved, and he felt wonderfully refrefhed. Six o'clock, P. M. pulfe 100, heat above natural, head-ach increafed fince the afternoon. The operation was repeated with the fame effect as in the morning, reducing the pulfe to 70. In an hour afterwards, when I again vifited, he faid he felt "very eafy," his head-ach was nearly removed, and the heat of his fkin was very little, if at all, above natural; I ordered an opiate to be given at bed-time.

24th. Eight o'clock, A. M. pulfe 76; flept well during the night, has little head-ach, fkin very little above natural heat; had a ftool this morning.

Rep. Affufio aquæ frigid.

7 P. M. Pulfe 72, fkin of natural heat, no head-ach; has been walking about great part of the afternoon, and fays he feels "quite ftrong." No farther application was neceffary.

D. L. ætat. 25, of a healthy and ſtrong conſtitution, was attacked, in the night of the 21ſt of February laſt, with cold ſhivering, followed by increaſed heat, head-ach, nauſea, and ſlight vomiting. I ſaw him about nine next morning. The vomiting had ceaſed; the nauſea was likewiſe gone; pulſe 112, and ſtrong; ſkin hot; face fluſhed; breathing a little hurried, but without pain of breaſt, or cough; head-ach very acute; tongue clean, of a bright red colour; much thirſt. I ordered, and ſaw performed copiouſly, the cold affuſion. The ſhock was conſiderable, but the effect almoſt inſtantaneous. The pulſe immediately fell to 80, and the head-ach was greatly relieved.

At one the pulſe was 90, and the heat above the natural ſtandard; I repeated the remedy; which ſucceeded ſo well, that in the evening the head-ach was removed, the ſkin of natural heat, and he recovered without farther application.

Theſe two caſes, I think, ſhew pretty pointedly the advantage of an early employment of this ſimple and uſeful remedy. I have made uſe of it too in the more advanced ſtages of typhus, and, I think, with very happy effects. It evidently mitigated the violence of the febrile ſymptoms, and appeared to ſuppreſs the tendency to delirium; and although the diſeaſe generally ran out its courſe, yet it ſeemed to aſſume a milder form, and to be attended with leſs danger, when this treatment was adopted.

I might have related other caſes of the ſame nature, but as the events in all were pretty ſimilar (allowing for a ſlight variation in circumſtance), and as I am fearful of exceeding the limits of a ſheet, I defer, till ſome future period, ſaying any farther on the ſubject.

Should this be honoured with your notice, I ſhall be ſtimulated to renew my efforts in the ſame cauſe, or any other which chance or opportunity may place within my reach.

The inaccuracy and want of connexion which may appear above, I doubt not will be liberally excuſed, when it is conſidered how ill calculated a nautical life is for application or ſtudy.

To

To the Editors of the Medical and Phyſical Journal.

GENTLEMEN,

AS it has been the opinion of moſt medical men that Small-pox and Meaſles could not exiſt, and go through their different ſtages, at one time, in the ſame perſon, I am induced to tranſmit you the following caſe (that came under my care very lately) to be inſerted in the Medical and Phyſical Journal, if you think it ſufficiently intereſting. I am,

GENTLEMEN,

Very reſpectfully,

Eaſt Street, Mancheſter Square. EDW. LEESE.

APRIL 19th, 1800. The infant of Mr. W. in Paddington Street, about five months old, at the breaſt, without any appearance of teeth, had been ever ſince its birth a very fine and healthy girl, though it had in the ſkin eight or ten little ſpots ſomething like flea-bites, but ſo very trifling as not to produce in me the leaſt heſitation to inoculate it, it being otherwiſe quite lively, and in good health; I therefore inſerted into the arm ſome variolous matter, recently taken from a healthy girl that had the diſeaſe by inoculation.

On the morning after the inoculation, a powder, compoſed of calom. ppt. and p. rhei, was given; and afterwards, for a few days, pulv. antim. and calom. in very ſmall doſes, every night and morning.

On the 4th day it was evident the virus had began to act in the arm, the little ſpots before obſerved had diſappeared, and the child was in its uſual ſtate of health.

About the 9th day ſome little ſpecks appeared in the ſkin, which it was ſuppoſed would become variolous puſtules, but they diſappeared, though about ten or twelve in the arm, around the inoculated part, continued to increaſe, and advance to ſuppuration.

10th day, Much as yeſterday, but the child rather feveriſh and uneaſy.

11th day, Uneaſy as yeſterday, with ſome little fever; a very few ſpots about the *body*, that promiſed to be variolous puſtules.

12th day, Rather more fever, puſtules more advanced, bowels open; ordered a ſaline febrifuge mixture; ſeemed alſo a little heavy, and ſtuffed at the noſe. The weather being tolerably

lerably fine, it had been carried out almoſt every day; was therefore ſuppoſed to have caught a ſlight cold.

13th day, The variolous puſtules advancing, the heat of the ſkin rather leſs; but was ſomewhat ſurprized to find it filled in every part with an eruption exactly reſembling meaſles, accompanied alſo with much redneſs of the eye-lids, and diſcharge from the eyes; the breathing a little impeded from the ſtoppage in the noſe. As I ſuppoſed the variolous and morbillous eruptions could not appear together, but that one would be retarded till the other had taken its courſe, I was in ſome doubt whether to pronounce it meaſles or not.

14th day, The variolous puſtules increaſing, and filled with ſome matter; a good deal of inflammation in the arm, and the puſtules there very prominent, though not very large; the morbillous eruption general, and very diſtinctly marked, with watering of the eyes, ſneezing, cough, and ſlight oppreſſion in reſpiration. I took a medical friend with me, who, like myſelf, had never ſeen ſuch a caſe, and he perfectly agreed with me that there was not the leaſt doubt but the eruption was the meaſles.

15th day, Leſs ill than yeſterday, meaſles diſappearing, ſmall-pox advancing, cough and ſneezing leſs frequent than yeſterday.

16th day, Called, but the child was carried out; the mother informed me it was better than yeſterday; the meaſles nearly gone.

17th day, Meaſles nearly or quite gone, the variolous puſtules dying away alſo; they were ſmall, and contained but little matter; the inoculated part drying, and black in the centre.

18th day, The meaſles entirely diſappeared, and the ſmall-pox going very faſt. From this time the child continued to be in perfect health.

To the Editors of the Medical and Phyſical Journal.

GENTLEMEN,

DR. Black, in his inſtructive paper on the Angina Pectoris, Art. XX. Vol. IV. of the Memoirs of the Medical Society of London, obſerves, "Diſſections have ſhewn this diſeaſe to be connected, either with ſome organic degeneracy of the heart or great veſſels, or with ſome mechanic preſſure upon them, ariſing either from an affuſion of fluids, or an accumulation of fat;"

fat;" and concludes with the following query, "Are women exempted from this disease? I do not recollect any decided instance on record of its occurring in the female sex; and some of the oldest and most experienced physicians in this part of the kingdom have made the same remark."

The following case, recently under the care of Dr. Arden, of this city, and myself, will, I hope, be acceptable to the readers of your useful Journal.

Your obedient servant,

Chester, May 12, 1800. G. N. HILL.

Mrs. E. B. from infancy up to the age of twenty-two, of a spare habit of body, subject to few complaints, excepting a periodical hemicrania of the left side, accompanied with copious bilious vomitings; from a change of her situation in life, which had hitherto been very abstemious, to full living on animal food, and the liberal use of malt liquors, became suddenly very fat; to obviate which, recourse was had to severe labour, acids, and starving, with a total abstinence from all drinks heretofore used. An increase of the hemicrania, violent dyspeptic symptoms, irregularity of the menses, and considerable emaciation, were the consequences: Removal to a more healthy air, change of diet, and moderate labour, removed these affections; and, excepting occasional recurrence of the affection of the face, Mrs. B. enjoyed tolerable health, until the age of thirty-three; at this period, from the concurrent causes of ease, indolence, full meals of animal food, particularly late suppers, the use of malt liquors, indulgence in sleep after dinner, and almost total neglect of exercise, obesity returned with quick steps, and produced an alarming change. One day, after eating a hearty dinner very eagerly, whilst attempting to walk to a neighbouring village, she was in a moment seized with a violent pain under the left breast, extending across the sternum, towards, but not quite reaching, the right side; it compelled her to stop instantly, when resting on a stone, it went off in a few minutes. Though very much frightened, yet, being a woman of great resolution, she persisted in compleating her walk, notwithstanding three or four similar attacks before reaching home; but, owing to the precaution of walking very deliberately, and resting often, none of these equalled the first in violence or duration. She described the pain as attended with great and inconceivable distress at her breast, as though her heart gave a violent stroke upward towards her throat, and then fell down again, at which instant the anxiety was indescribable, but commonly relieved for a moment

ment by expulſion of wind from the ſtomach, and a deep lengthened ſigh. The pain for ſome months, or near two years, never recurred but upon uſing ſudden or violent exerciſe; and then, if any friend urged her to come on, and ſtrive againſt it, her apprehenſions were, that death muſt be the conſequence of the attempt. The obeſity continued increaſing, with the addition of a troubleſome incubus; at length, the pain occurred after eating heartily a favourite dinner and lying down on the bed, and often about midnight; hence, it became neceſſary a friend ſhould watch the approach of both theſe unhappy affections, and awake her; when ſhe would inſtantly get up, labouring under the apprehenſion of immediate diſſolution. The rather ſudden death of her huſband one morning very early, on receiving the intelligence, was ſucceeded by the pain, like a ſudden ſtroke or blow received on the left breaſt, and the firſt fainting fit; on recovering from which, ſhe complained of pain down her arm, and numbneſs in the hand, particularly the thumb, the whole limb being cold and covered with a clammy moiſture, as, indeed, was the whole body. I was preſent when this happened; on examining the pulſe, I found it very feeble and irregular, giving one weak ſtroke, and then two ſcarce perceptible; it was ſome time before it became regular, and remained feeble and fluttering all day. I preſcribed the camphor julap, made with peppermint water and a portion of æther, which ſtaid on her ſtomach, notwithſtanding a deadly ſickneſs, though not amounting to vomiting, being preſent. The medicine occaſioned the eſcape of much wind, and thereby afforded relief; a large bliſter to the breaſt, ſaline aperient medicines, thin weak liquids for drink, and an abſtemious diet for a few weeks, rendered her free from the faintings, and perceptibly reduced the corpulency. Neglect of this ſalutary plan, towards the latter end of laſt year, was followed by a ſevere attack in the night, ſoon after eating a hearty improper ſupper near twelve o'clock, after having juſt dropped aſleep; about two o'clock, a ſecond; and during my attendance with Dr. Arden, (now called in) a ſucceſſion of paroxyſms at irregular periods for ſeveral weeks: ſome of theſe were ſlight compared to others. Univerſal coldneſs, clammy ſweats, loſs of all ſenſe, and the power of voluntary motion, accompanied the more ſevere fits; and I often obſerved, that immediately on recovery from one, our patient would ſtretch herſelf upwards, ſtrive to yawn, throw her head back, and ſay, ſhe wiſhed ſhe had a rope fixed to a beam to pull at, believing it would expand her cheſt, and give her heart more room to beat. Saline, ſudorific, and gently aperient medicines were preſcribed, with low diet, though indeed, little now ſufficed, the

conſtant

conſtant diſtreſs of mind, labouring under continual apprehenſions of death, ſeemed to ſuſpend appetite: the tendency to become thinner ſoon evinced itſelf. Two large iſſues were now cut, one below each knee, the diſcharge from which being copious, afforded conſiderable relief; occaſional moderate evacuations, with this conſtant drain, have reduced Mrs. B's ſize very conſiderably; her health has proportionally amended, but ſhe is ſtill ſubject to returns of the pain upon any ſudden exertion of body, or particular emotion of mind, although it is now but rarely accompanied by fainting.

Dr. Parry, in his recent treatiſe on this formidable diſeaſe, when enumerating its ſymptoms, ſays, "And is altogether ſo free and diſtinct from any difficulty of breathing." Now, in the caſe I have recited, though not before mentioned, this ſymptom was moſt urgent, but only prevailed when Mrs. B. was uſing exerciſe: in thoſe attacks of the diſeaſe which occurred when at reſt, this ſymptom never appeared; but the deep ſighing peculiar to ſuch patients was now moſt conſpicuous, accompanied with a lifting up of the arms, and an intolerable deſire to expand the breaſt. From all which has now been ſaid, permit me to add, I think there can be no doubt, but ſudden increaſe of fatneſs is capable of proving a very alarming cauſe of angina pectoris; it is probable, that the four caſes mentioned by Dr. Darwin in his Zoonomia, as cured by iſſues, abſtemiouſneſs, and antimonials, were of this deſcription; an encouraging circumſtance to thoſe who ſhall be ſo unfortunate as to be afflicted with this diſeaſe in early life; I argue thus, becauſe the complaint, when occurring in perſons at a more advanced period, ſeems, from the clear deductions of Dr. P. to ariſe from oſſification of the coronary arteries; and, unhappily, theſe curative means cannot merely be but little relied on, but, perhaps, would have a tendency rather to aggravate than relieve, inaſmuch, as from our knowledge of the functions of the abſorbent ſyſtem, evacuating remedies tend powerfully to promote abſorption; hence, may quicken, rather than retard the progreſs towards oſſification. Diſſections ſeem to have proved, that perſons liable, or who have fallen victims to angina pectoris, are peculiarly inclined to fatneſs of the heart; in thoſe, therefore, who acquire ſudden, enormous, and diſtreſſing obeſity, can we wonder the diſeaſe ſhould occur ſo formidably? I have never met with a caſe of angina in advanced life, as deſcribed by authors on the ſubject; but I have ſome reaſons to believe, it has occurred in very corpulent ſubjects, and been over-looked; one perſon in particular, a woman, I remember to have been ſo ſimilarly affected to Mrs. B. as, that the deſcription of the one caſe might ſerve

for that of the other, with this difference only, as to the event, that this patient perſiſted in rejecting the uſe of all means preſcribed for her relief, and continuing to grow fatter daily, was one morning found dead in her bed, after having eaten a hearty ſupper of animal food.

To the Editors of the Medical and Phyſical Journal.

GENTLEMEN,

SHOULD the following obſervations appear worthy your attention, you will much oblige me by inſerting them in your uſeful Journal. I am,

Your's,

Grantham, May 10, 1800. B. LEESON, jun.

It is much to be lamented, that, in the narration of medical facts, an unjuſt preference is given to ſuch as have had a favourable iſſue; while unſucceſsful caſes, however intereſting in their progreſs, or important in their event, ſeldom are brought before the public eye. The ſelf-gratification which occaſions this partiality to ſucceſsful caſes, leads alſo to another error, ſtill more injurious to ſound practice and medical improvement,—to the publication of fortunate caſes, the very exiſtence of which is doubtful. Not that I can ſuppoſe any medical practitioner ſo void of principle, as wilfully to impoſe upon the public, fictitious caſes; but, I doubt not, it will be granted, an attachment to a preconceived opinion will frequently prevent a proper attention to the diſcrimination of diſeaſe. Hence, complaints of the moſt ſerious import are frequently reported to have yielded to remedies of trifling efficacy; which, if again employed, on the authority of ſuch reports, are only productive of diſappointment. I have been led to theſe reflections by ſome accounts I have lately ſeen, of the ſucceſsful treatment of the croup. Judging from theſe deſcriptions, a perſon would naturally conclude the croup to be a diſeaſe of long duration and eaſy management. As by one author we are informed, that mercury employed, ſo as to produce ſalivation, effectually cures: another is confident of the ſucceſs of a lotion made with the ſpiritus ætheris vitriolici compoſitus; while a third relies upon a decoction of ſeneka.

No

No doubt, all theſe remedies might be productive of good effect, if the rapid progreſs of the complaint allowed them to be fairly tried. But I am afraid, ſuch is the celerity of the dangerous ſymptoms, that few practitioners have had the pleaſure to experience a recovery from the true croup. It may be right, I ſhould define what I underſtand by the *true croup:* By this term, then, I would expreſs a diſeaſe, ariſing from an extravaſation of coagulable lymph within the trachea and bronchial tubes, which occaſions that peculiar ſound in inſpiration we ſhould expect, was the breath drawn through a narrow pipe. This is preceded by a ſlight inflammatory ſtage, of which the ſymptoms are ſo little troubleſome, as ſeldom to be obſerved.

In conſidering the cynanche trachealis, it is neceſſary to premiſe, that two diſtinct diſeaſes appear to have been claſſed by writers under the ſame name. The one ariſing from a ſpaſmodic ſtricture of the parts ſurrounding the trachea; the other depending on extravaſation, the conſequence of inflammation. In the firſt, the exhibition of an emetic ſeldom fails to remove the complaint, while the ſecond bids defiance to every effort of art. In the ſpaſmodic croup, the attack is ſudden, generally commencing ſome time after the patient has been in bed; it is accompanied by remarkable anxiety, and oppreſſion about the breaſt; a hoarſe, ſhrill voice; great redneſs of the countenance; (which expreſſes moſt grievous uneaſineſs) quick and difficult reſpiration, and a ſoft pulſe. Upon the operation of an emetic, theſe ſymptoms gradually ſubſide; the patient ſinks into a ſlumber, and awakes with little remains of the complaint. I am acquainted with a family, in which this complaint has attacked more than once, each child of a numerous offspring, and has never failed to diſappear upon the operation of an emetic.

Very different is the progreſs of the inflammatory croup; in this, the firſt appearance of diſeaſe is of ſuch an inſidious nature, as ſeldom to create any alarm, being conſidered by the attendants as a ſlight cough accompanied with hoarſeneſs. By degrees the roughneſs of the voice becomes more remarkable, the breath is drawn with difficulty, as if through a narrow pipe, occaſioning a peculiar ſhrill ſound;* there is a conſtant feveriſh heat upon the ſkin, together with a profuſe perſpiration about the head and face, in ſo much that the ſweat ſtands in drops upon the countenance, which exhibits the greateſt anxiety; the pulſe is quick and ſoft; the lips are pale,

F f 2 frequently

* Febris excitatur ad liberandum corpus a muco, & membrana extra vaſa. *Home de Suffocatione Stridula.*

frequently livid; the changes of countenance are ſudden and frequent; at one time it is red, in an inſtant it is pale as a corpſe. The progreſs of this diſeaſe, from its commencement to its termination, as far as you may depend upon the information of nurſes, never exceeds more than four or five days: from the firſt appearance of danger, the patient ſeldom continues, more than thirty-ſix hours, rarely ſo long. I have been obliged to refer to nurſes, as I believe few medical men have witneſſed the firſt attack of croup, it being too inconſiderable to merit their attention.

Having endeavoured to enumerate the pathognomonic ſymptoms of the croup, I ſhall farther intrude by detailing two caſes which have lately occurred to me.

G. M. eleven months old, naturally of a full habit, recently weaned, and now about his teeth; as he has generally had a cough and ſtuffing while cutting his teeth, the nurſe was not alarmed at this circumſtance, which had occurred for a day or two before I ſaw him. I was firſt called about eight o'clock in the evening; the great anxiety, difficulty of breathing, and peculiar ſound in reſpiration, clearly indicated his complaint to be the croup: his gums were lanced, an emetic mixture, compoſed of four grains of emetic tartar, one drachm of oxymel of ſquills, and an ounce and a half of water, was given in doſes of two tea ſpoons full every ten minutes until it operated; a lotion, compoſed of ſp. ætheris vitriolici compoſitus, and the aqua ammoniæ acetata, was applied to the throat. At nine o'clock, the ſymptoms continuing equally urgent, I had the aſſiſtance of an eminent phyſician reſident in this town; by his advice, leeches were applied to the throat, and the patient put into a warm bath; bliſters were likewiſe laid on each ſide the neck: from theſe means ſome relief appeared to be gained. At eleven o'clock, the child being more reſtleſs, was again immerſed in warm water; an oily mixture was given occaſionally. At four o'clock in the morning, the violence of the ſymptoms increaſing, an ounce of ipecacuanha wine was given, in ſmall quantities, before it produced any effect; the warm bath was again uſed; about ſeven o'clock the child expired.

April 20, J. L. aged twenty-two months, yet ſtill at the breaſt, has had a ſlight cough for a few days; it has increaſed much during the night; the child has been very reſtleſs, and ſweats much about the face and head; ſwallows with tolerable eaſe; breathes with much anxiety, and with a peculiar ſhrill ſound. It was nine o'clock in the morning when I firſt ſaw this child; being aware, from the fatal termination of the former caſe, of the neceſſity of powerful means to arreſt the

progreſs

progreſs of the diſorder, I immediately opened the jugular veins, and obtained from thence between ſix and ſeven ounces of blood; after which a ſolution of ſix grains of emetic tartar in an ounce and a half of water, with a drachm of oxymel of ſquills, was given in doſes of two tea ſpoons full every ten minutes; the whole mixture was given before any vomiting was produced; the child was then placed in the warm bath for ſeven minutes. For a ſhort time it appeared to be more compoſed, and to breathe with leſs difficulty; but, about twelve o'clock, the former ſymptoms returned. A tea ſpoon full of the decoction radicis ſeneka was then given every half hour, which excited great thirſt, and additional reſtleſſneſs; the patient grew worſe, breathed with more and more difficulty, and expired about three o'clock P. M.

It has generally been obſerved, that the croup is moſt prevalent during a wet ſeaſon, or in damp ſituations; theſe two caſes occurred when the weather was more than uſually dry.

It will be obſerved in the above caſes, that there was conſiderable diminution of the ſenſibility of the ſtomach; as appears from the quantity of emetic medicine neceſſary to produce vomiting. May not this ariſe from an increaſed determination of blood to the trachea, diminiſhing the influx in the veſſels of the ſtomach?

Remarks on the Treatment of incarcerated Herniæ, with Cases: By M. Ward, *Surgeon to the Mancheſter Infirmary.*

HAVING ſeldom ſeen the taxis ſucceſsful as it is generally conducted, in caſes of incarcerated inguinal and ſcrotal hernia, I was induced, ſeveral years ago, to place the patient in an *inverted poſition** whilſt I applied the taxis; and am convinced it poſſeſſes ſome important advantages over the poſitions in common uſe.

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* By this phraſe is meant, the patient being held by the legs on the ſhoulders of an aſſiſtant; his body being allowed to hang down: another aſſiſtant is then to ſupport his head and ſhoulders, and to incline them a little forwards, ſo as to relax the abdominal muſcles.

The following are all the cafes of this kind which have been under my care fince the period alluded to.*

Firft. May 25, 1795, Wm. Bellows was admitted into the Infirmary with a fcrotal hernia, which had been in an incarcerated ftate twelve hours. He complained of great pain, and had vomited frequently.

He was bled copioufly, and had a clyfter given, which produced a trifling evacuation only.

While the warm bath was preparing, an affiftant was directed to fit upon the bed with his back towards the patient, and to grafp his legs (which were put upon his fhoulders) juft above the ancles, and to rife up with him upon his back; another affiftant was then directed to fupport his head and fhoulders, and to incline them a little forwards, principally with a view to relax the abdominal mufcles, but in part to prevent the weight of the body from falling wholly upon the legs. He was held in this pofture ten or fifteen minutes while the taxis was applied, and, by repeating the fame procefs three or four times (allowing him to reft at intervals) the hernia was reduced, without having recourfe to the warm bath.

Aperients and a trufs were directed for him, and he was difcharged cured on the 30th.

Second. January 15, 1796, Wm. Howarth was admitted with an inguinal hernia, which had been incarcerated twenty hours. The moft urgent fymptoms were fingultus, vomiting, and pain.

After fixteen ounces of blood had been taken from his arm, he was placed in the inverted pofition, and the taxis was applied, at intervals, till the warm bath was ready; feveral efforts were alfo made while he was in the bath to reduce the hernia, but were ineffectual. He continued in the bath till he began to grow faint; he was then removed to bed, and, in about an hour after, the reduction was compleated, by again having recourfe to the inverted pofition and the taxis.

Third.

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* I was not aware until I had arranged my notes on this fubject, that the late Mr. Pott and Mr. Benj. Bell, had recommended in their Treatifes on Hernia, the pofition which I have called the inverted pofition. The former, after having given directions for applying the taxis, adds, "The pofition of the body, and the difpofition of the lower limbs, may be made very affiftant in this operation, when the difficulty is confiderable; the nearer the pofition approaches to what is commonly called ftanding on the head, the better, as it caufes the whole packet of inteftines to hang, as it were, by the ftrangulated portion, and may thereby difengage it, &c. &c." Pott's Works, (Earle's edition) Vol. II. p. 67, 68.—See alfo Bell's Surgery, Vol. I. p. 284, 3d edition.

Third. March 4, 1796, Job Morton ruptured himſelf by endeavouring to ſtop a reſtive horſe. Several hours had elapſed when he ſent for me.

The hernia was an inguinal one, in a tenſe and painful ſtate. He had vomited ſeveral times. The means made uſe of were venæſection, the inverted poſition, and the taxis, which were happily ſucceſsful.

Fourth. Jan. 20, 1798, Richard Parry, ætat. 40, was admitted with an incarcerated inguinal hernia.

The ſymptoms, mode of treatment, and the reſult, were exactly ſimilar to the firſt caſe. He was diſcharged cured in a few days.

Fifth. Wm. Bellows was admitted the ſecond time, (ſee Caſe 1.) About ſixteen hours had elapſed ſince he found himſelf unable to return the hernia.

He was bled, and the warm bath was ordered; but before it was ready, the complaint was removed, by placing him in the inverted poſition, and applying the taxis.

Sixth. Owing to the following caſe having occurred in the night, it devolved to the care of Mr. Jenkinſon, Houſe Surgeon to the Infirmary, who has favoured me with the following particulars:

"March 17, 1799, Wm. Bellows was brought to the Infirmary at three o'clock, A. M. About ſix hours had elapſed ſince he found himſelf unable to reduce his hernia.

"He complained of great pain, and hiccuped at times.

"I attempted, but in vain, to reduce it by applying the taxis, having previouſly raiſed his hips by placing pillows under them. About a pint of blood was then taken from his arm; a purging clyſter was injected, which brought away a ſtool in about half an hour; a cold ſolution of ſal ammoniac was applied to the part affected, and caſtor oil was ordered internally, which procured him ſeveral evacuations.

"Between ſeven and eight o'clock he was put into the warm bath, and felt eaſier afterwards, though the tumour continued of the ſame ſize, but felt rather ſofter. About two hours after he left the bath, he was held by the legs on the ſhoulders of an aſſiſtant, and the taxis was applied nearly a quarter of an hour, but the hernia was not reduced; he was then laid down in bed, and a ſickneſs came on, and during the continuance of the ſickneſs it went up."

He was diſcharged cured on the 22d, with a new truſs, his old one having been uſeleſs for ſome time.

Seventh. May 13, 1799, James Taylor had experienced the moſt excruciating pain four hours, from an incarcerated inguinal hernia.

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The inverted poſition was not reſorted to for want of proper aſſiſtants; but the patient's head being lowered, and his hips elevated as much as poſſible, brought him nearly into that poſition; and the hernia was ſpeedily reduced by applying the taxis.

If we admit the propriety of placing the patient, when the taxis is to be applied, in ſuch a poſition as may moſt effectually co-operate with the ſurgeon, the inverted poſition ſeems in every point of view fairly entitled to a preference, not only in the inguinal and ſcrotal, but alſo in the congenital and femoral hernia; and whoever will reflect on the connexion which ſubſiſts between the parts above and below the ſtricture, will be inclined, I think, to draw a ſimilar concluſion.

But this is a matter which does not reſt on theory entirely; the experience I have already had of its utility, enables me to ſay, that more benefit actually takes place from the taxis when the patient is placed in an inverted poſition, and with leſs violence or injury to the diſplaced viſcera, than when any other poſition is made uſe of; an equal degree of preſſure being applied in both caſes.

The alarming ſituation of Wm. Howarth (Caſe 2) induced me both to repeat the taxis oftener, and alſo to apply a greater degree of preſſure before the reſiſtance could be overcome, than I had ever done before; and it is to theſe cauſes, and having availed myſelf of the moſt favourable poſition, that my ſucceſs is to be attributed, not only in this but in the three ſucceeding caſes.

I ſhould be ſorry to be wanting in that reſpect which is due to the opinions of men deſervedly eminent in their profeſſion; but I muſt beg leave to withhold my aſſent from the injunction which would limit the ſurgeon to gentle preſſure in every inſtance. "A little time and pains ſpent in this manner will frequently be attended with ſucceſs, and obtain a return of the part; but if it ſhould not, and the handling of it, (which I muſt repeat ſhould always be gentle) becomes painful and very fatiguing to the patient, we are adviſed to deſiſt for a few hours, and try the effect of other means."*

"But this muſt always be had in view, that any preſſure that is applied muſt be of the moſt gentle kind; for every thing of this nature that creates much pain, is very prejudicial, and ought by all means to be avoided."†

Whoever regulates his practice by the above rules, will, I believe,

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* Pott's Works, Vol. II. p. 68.

† Bell's Surgery, Vol. I. p. 287.

believe, rarely ſucceed in reducing thoſe hernia that are accompanied by a conſiderable degree of ſtricture.

I truſt, however, it will not be imagined I am an advocate for a rude or violent method of applying the taxis; every addition to the preſſure applied, ſhould certainly be made in a cautious and gradual manner; but at the ſame time it will be incumbent upon us to remember, that ſhould we fail in reducing the hernia, the patient muſt either ſubmit to an operation, which often terminates fatally even when performed under the moſt favourable circumſtances, or to the almoſt inevitable alternative of a gangrene taking place, with all its attendant evils.

In the treatment of a complaint ſo dangerous in its nature, and ſo rapid in its progreſs, that the fate of the unfortunate ſufferer is frequently decided in a few hours, it appears highly injudicious to allow a conſiderable portion of that precious time (which ought to be appropriated to the uſe of the moſt efficacious remedies) to be occupied in applying cold liquids, or ice, to the part affected.*

Where cold topical applications are ſo managed as not to divert the attention of the ſurgeon from meaſures of more eſſential importance, my objections will not apply; but having reaſon to believe that great confidence is ſometimes repoſed in them, and being convinced of their general inutility, I cannot help thinking it would be a happy circumſtance were they totally diſcarded in the treatment of every ſpecies of incarcerated hernia.

In the intervals, when patients of the above deſcription are not undergoing the taxis, or uſing the warm bath, might it not promote the object in view (or at leaſt retard the progreſs of inflammation) were they to be laid in bed with the head

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* Mr. Pott's remarks in his Treatiſe on Hernia, when cautioning his readers againſt employing fomentations, cataplaſms, and embrocations, are very forcible, and appear to me not very inapplicable in the preſent inſtance. "I know that in this I differ from the majority both of writers and practitioners; but having (as I think) truth on my ſide, I do again venture to ſay, that I verily believe, that the confidence which has been placed in ſuch kind of applications, has deſtroyed many more lives than it has ſaved. A hernia, with painful ſtricture, and ſtoppage of ſtools, is one of thoſe caſes in which we can ſeldom ſtand ſtill even for a ſhort ſpace of time; if we do not get forward, we generally go backward; and whatever does no good, if it be at all depended upon, certainly does harm, by occaſioning an irretrievable loſs of time: of this kind I take the cataplaſm and embrocation to be; while the former is applied, or the latter uſed, no other more powerful means are made uſe of; and though it has the appearance of doing ſomething, yet I fear it is little more than ſpecious trifling; eſpecially if the caſe be at all preſſing."
Works, Vol. II. *p.* 69, 70.

and ſhoulders lowered, and the hips elevated conſiderably, inſtead of being allowed to lay in the uſual horizontal poſition?

However trivial ſuch a circumſtance may appear, nothing ought to be conſidered beneath notice, which may in any degree tend to promote eaſe, or diminiſh danger.

Mancheſter, May 29, 1800.

To the Editors of the Medical and Phyſical Journal.

GENTLEMEN,

IF you think the following Eſſay has ſufficient merit to be admitted into your uſeful Publication, I will thank you to inſert it.

Your's, &c.

May 22, 1800. W. WOODWARD.

By the moſt accurate calculation,* half of mankind die under eight years of age. The extraordinary havock made by diſeaſes among children, is much owing to the unnatural treatment they meet with, which is ill ſuited to the ſingular delicacy of their tender frames. This mortality is greateſt among the moſt luxurious part of mankind, but gradually decreaſes in proportion as the diet becomes ſimpler, the exerciſe more frequent, and the general method of living more hardy; and as it doth not take place among wild animals, the general foundation of the cauſe is ſufficiently pointed out. The inſtincts of children, and the conduct of Nature in rearing other animals, are never attended to, and they are incapable of helping themſelves, particularly in the moſt early period. When they are farther advanced in life, the voice of Nature becomes too loud to be ſtifled; and then, in ſpite of the influence of corrupted and adventitious taſte, will be obeyed.

Many reaſons have been aſſigned why the ſtate of infancy is the moſt ſickly; and why ſo great a proportion of the human ſpecies is cut off at that early period. Phyſicians have inſiſted largely on the unavoidable dangers ariſing from the ſudden

* Since the practice of inoculation has become ſo general, this may have ſomewhat decreaſed; and the introduction of the vaccine diſeaſe bids fair even to leſſen that: To the honour of thoſe gentlemen, who, in the cauſe of humanity, brought this diſeaſe forward, be it ever remembered.

ſudden and total change of the animal œconomy of infants, that commences immediately on their birth; and on the dangers that are cauſed by the free admiſſion of the external air to their bodies at that time: they have expatiated on the high degree of irritability of their nervous ſyſtem, the delicacy of their whole frame, and the aceſſency of their food. A little reflection, however, may ſhew us, that this account of the matter, though plauſible at firſt view, is not ſatisfactory: This ſingle conſideration refutes it, that all theſe alleged cauſes of the ſickneſs of infants are not peculiar to the human ſpecies, but are found among many other animals, without being attended by ſuch effects; that the diſeaſes moſt common to children are not found among the ſavage part of mankind; and that they prevail in exact proportion to the effeminacy and luxury, and as people forſake the plain dictates of Nature, to follow what they are pleaſed to term, *the light of reaſon.* There is, in truth, a greater luxuriancy of life and health in infancy, than in any other period of life. Infants, we acknowledge, are more delicately ſenſible to injury than thoſe in advanced life; but to compenſate this, their fibres and veſſels are more capable of diſtenſion, their whole ſyſtem is more flexible, their fluids are leſs acrid, and leſs diſpoſed to putreſſence; they bear all evacuations more eaſily, except that of blood; and, which is an important circumſtance in their favour, they never ſuffer from the terrors of a diſtracted imagination: their ſpirits are lively and equal; they quickly forget their paſt ſufferings, and never anticipate the future.

Children recover from diſeaſes under ſuch unfavourable circumſtances as are never ſurvived by adults; if they waſte more quickly under ſickneſs, their recovery is quick in proportion, and generally more compleat than in older people, as diſeaſes ſeldom leave thoſe baneful effects on their conſtitutions, ſo frequent in thoſe of adults: in ſhort, a phyſician ought never to deſpair of a child's life while it continues to breathe.

In human parturition, the moſt known and ſucceſsful practitioners, if they are candid, will own, that in common and natural caſes, Nature is ſufficient; and, that their buſineſs is only to aſſiſt her efforts in caſes of weakneſs of the mother, or an unnatural poſition of the child. As ſoon as an infant comes into the world, our firſt care is to cram it with phyſic: There is a liquor in the bowels of infants, and many other animals, when they are born, which is neceſſary to be carried off; the medicine which Nature has provided for that purpoſe, is the mother's firſt milk; this, indeed, anſwers every purpoſe, and effectually; but we think ſome drugs forced down the child's throat will do much better—the compoſition of which varies,

 according

according to the fancy of the good woman who presides at the birth. It deserves to be remarked, while on that subject, that calves, which are the only animals taken under our peculiar care in these circumstances, are treated in the same manner; they have the same sort of physic administered to them, and often with the same success; many dying under the operation, or of its consequences: and we have the greatest reason to think, that more of that species of animals die at this period than of all others. We see in these circumstances put together, that notwithstanding the many moving calls of natural instinct in the child to suck the mother's breast, yet the usual practice is to deny that indulgence till the third day after the birth; by that time, the suppression* of the natural evacuations of the milk, usually brings on a fever, the consequence of which is often fatal to the mother, or puts it out of her power to suckle her child at that time. The sudden swelling of the breasts, which commonly happens about the third day, is another bad consequence of this delay. When the breasts become thus suddenly and greatly distended, a child is not only utterly unable to suck, but, by its cries and struggling, fatigues and heats both itself and the mother: this is another cause which prevents nursing. I believe it was the gentlemen who had the care of the Lying-in Hospital in London, who first had the honour, in this instance, to bring us back to Nature and common sense; and by that means have preserved the lives of thousands of their fellow creatures. They ordered the children to be put to the mother's breast as soon as they shewed a desire for it, which was generally within ten or twelve hours after birth; this rendered the usual dose of physic unnecessary; the milk fever was prevented; the milk flowed gradually and easily into the breasts, which before were apparently empty; and things went on in the natural way. I am sorry, however, to observe, that this practice is not yet become general. If a mother is determined not to nurse her own infant, she should, for her own sake, suckle it at least three or four weeks, and then wean it by degrees from her own breast; in this way, the more immediate danger arising from repelling the milk, is prevented. When a mother does not nurse her own infant, she does open violence to Nature; a violence unknown among the

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* It is, perhaps, unnecessary to remind our readers, that in publishing the communications of our Correspondents, we by no means wish to be understood, as adopting or approving their opinions. We believe that several opinions contained in this paper, have originated in a want of opportunity to acquire the *latest information*, respecting some of the practices which the writer condemns. EDIT.

the inferior animals, whom Nature intended to ſuckle their young; a violence unknown to the moſt barbarous nations, and equally unknown amongſt the moſt poliſhed in the pureſt ages of Greece and Rome.

[To be continued.]

From *An Eſſay on Human Combuſtion from the Abuſe of Spirituous Liquors*, by PIEREE-AIMEE LAIR, Paris, 1 Vol. duodecimo, we preſent our Readers with the following Extracts.

THE bodies of living perſons have been known to catch fire from the flame of other bodies, and continue to burn almoſt to aſhes.

On this aſtoniſhing and little known fact, the author ventures, as he ſays, to make ſome obſervations, which are the ſubſtance of his eſſay.

He begins by remarking, that the fact itſelf may be difficult to be believed, and will find the more opponents becauſe of its rarity; and becauſe there are examples of parts of the human body, to which this fatal accident has happened, that have not been conſumed when they have not been abſolutely ſubjected to the action of the fire. But he adds, this phenomenon has been aſſerted, as true, by too many learned men, of undoubted veracity, for it to be called in queſtion. The names of thoſe he cites are Bianchini, Maffei, Rolli, Lecat, and Vicq-d'Azyr.

He enters on his ſubject by obſerving, that he ſhall have recourſe to facts; which are much more ſatiſfactory than ſuppoſitions. Moſt of thoſe he cites, which are not a few, are extracted from the journals of various nations; and, with ſome ſhades of difference, offer much the ſame reſults, which are thus enumerated by the author:

1. The perſons who have been ſubject to combuſtion, have been long accuſtomed to drink ſpirituous liquors.
2. None but women have been conſumed.
3. Theſe women were old.
4. The body has not burned ſpontaneouſly, but accidentally.
5. The extremities of the body, ſuch as the feet and hands, have generally been ſpared by the fire.

6. Water

ignited body? The latter caſe is admitted by the author in ſupport of his opinion. He obſerves, it is poſſible that theſe inflammable vapours, which emanate from the bodies of drunken people, may catch fire, and communicate it to the bodies by which they are exhaled. Perſons are cited who had drunk brandy, and whoſe breath, kindled by the flame of a candle, had communicated the fire inwardly. In confirmation that the fire had caught by accident in all the caſes he quotes, it was obſerved, that the remains of moſt of the perſons were found near the fire.

The author then returns to the poſſibility of ſpontaneous combuſtion in the human frame; admitted by ſome enlightened obſervers. Having noticed, that theſe kind of conflagrations take place in the mineral and vegetable kingdoms, he cites caſes of men, after drinking much brandy, that have breathed flames: but ſuppoſing theſe facts confirmed, he does not imagine ſuch inflammation could totally deſtroy the body. To this it may be replied, according to the author's own doctrine, that ſince he ſuppoſes bodies may take fire from a pipe, a lighted candle, or burning coals, there is no evident reaſon why it might not, in like manner, take fire from a ſpontaneous flame, in contact with it over a great extent of ſurface.

Of the fifth remark, relative to the parts ſpared by the fire, the author ſuppoſes the cauſe to be in their leſs propenſity to burn.

In proof of the ſixth, he cites a familiar example of water thrown on greaſy and ſpirituous ſubſtances, which does but augment the activity of the fire.

He attributes the little damage done to the combuſtible clothing of the dead body to the nature of the flame, ſimilar to that of the alcohol. Beſide which, it is obſerved, that the combuſtion is performed almoſt without flame, the body being ſlowly conſumed like the pyrophore, and the nature of the aſhes and greaſe that remain, being the ſame as thoſe of all animal parts, the emanation of which has not been excited to the utmoſt.*

Theſe explanations being given, the author yields to ſuch reflections as reſult from, and are the end of, his inquiries. The firſt is, that accidental human combuſtion might be ſuppoſed the work of the guilty; and the innocent might thus be involved in great misfortunes. He cites, in proof, the example of a man condemned to death, in conſequence of ſuch an accident. He thence very judiciouſly obſerves, that theſe facts

* Dont l'emanation n'a pas été portée au dérnier dégré.

6. Water, inftead of extinguifhing the fire in thofe parts that were in a ftate of combuftion, has fometimes only given it greater activity.

7. The fire has little injured, and fometimes not at all, thofe combuftible things that were in contact with the body when it was burning.

8. The combuftion of thefe bodies has left a refidue of greafy and fetid afhes and fat, that were unctuous, offenfive to the fmell, and very penetrating.

It is proper to add, that often, while the fire was in the height of its action, it fent forth little or no flame.

Having eftablifhed this feries of facts, he examines each, individually, and begins with the abufe of fpirituous liquors, to which moft of the victims of this horrible death had been fubject. In order to fhew how this practice may render the body combuftible, he remarks, it is generally known, that people who drink much eat little; which little is of high-feafoned viands; that their urine is aqueous, and that the alcoholic parts, like all volatile fubftances, are but little decompofed, penetrate the mufcles, and as it were, faturate the whole mafs. In proof of this he cites different cafes; of which it has been remarked, that the bodies of perfons who have died drunk, fend forth a vinous odour long after death. But, without fuppofing fo much, there are few who have not been fenfible of the alcoholic vapours which drunkards exhale. Two confequences refult from a body being thus impregnated with alcohol; one is, that the vinous fpirit dries the flefh, foftens the fat, and fits them both for combuftion; and the other, that this kind of internal and highly inflammable vapour-bath is ever ready to catch fire, and to communicate it to the body that is already thus prepared.

Combuftion has only been obferved to take place in women; which does not prove that men are wholly exempt from it, but that they are lefs fubject to it than the other fex. This propenfity the author attributes to the delicacy of the female fibres, and the lefs compactnefs of the parts of the body, which is natural to them, and their fedentary life, rendering both the flefh and the fat more proper to abforb fpirituous fubftances, and difpofe them to inflammation.

The women were old: the love of liquors is the fucceffor of the paffions of youth, and is moft manifeft, particularly in women, in an advanced age. The little exercife of which this feafon of life admits, encourages the increafe of inflammable fubftances in the body, and thus gives place to the accident in queftion.

Was the fire fpontaneous? or was it communicated by an ignited

facts are as neceſſary to be known by the lawyer as the natural hiſtorian.

He concludes with preſuming, that the terror which accidents ſo dreadful muſt inſpire, were they ſufficiently known, might perhaps deter many people from the vice of drunkenneſs.

However plauſible the reaſons given in this work may be of the propenſity of certain living animal bodies to catch fire, and be thus conſumed, it muſt be owned, that were they merely hypothetical, the poſſibility of an event ſo aſtoniſhing muſt be doubted; and that nothing leſs than experience could deſtroy the incredulity felt at the recital of theſe ſtrange combuſtions: but this authority of experience is ſo well ſupported by the number and agreement of the facts, and by the character of the perſons who teſtify their veracity, that none but the obſtinate can doubt of their exiſtence.

The work is written with perſpicuity and method, is rich in well-ſelected quotations, and the arguments it contains are always ſupported by facts, and ſtated with ſagacity.

To the Editors of the Medical and Phyſical Journal.

GENTLEMEN,

IF the following ſingular caſe, from its ſucceſsful termination, (which appears to have been effected principally by the exhibition of the Digitalis, and may, probably, merit the attention of practitioners in ſo dreadful a malady) ſhould be deemed worthy a place in your periodical publication, I offer it to your ſervice; and am,

GENTLEMEN,
With very great reſpect,
Your moſt humble ſervant,
EDMUND SHAUL.

Docking, Norfolk,
June 6, 1800.

S. O. a young women aged twenty-one years, of low ſtature, and of a feeble, florid habit, having over-exerted herſelf in walking or running ten miles in a ſhort ſpace of time; in conſequence of which, ſhe fainted, and became extremely languid and debilitated, being three months advanced in pregnancy. Symptoms of irritation, with great tendency to abortion, immediately ſupervened; but, upon examination, there was no appearance of dilatation of the os tincæ; and the vagina

gina was very much contracted, ſcarcely admitting the introduction of the fingers. She was ordered to keep herſelf in a horizontal poſition, and to abſtain from all heating liquors; an anodyne mixture was alſo adminiſtered, compoſed of the mixtura camphorata. tinct. caſtor & tinct. opii; a doſe of which was ordered to be taken every three hours. But the pains recurring at times, accompanied with a general hyſteria, I was ſent for at twelve o'clock at night, and found her labouring under an increaſe of ſymptoms, but ſtill there was no dilatation of the os tincæ. I then gave her a draught with tinct. opii. gts. 40, and æther. vitriol. increaſing the tinct opii. gradually. This affording a temporary relief, ſhe took ſome nouriſhment, and was diſpoſed to ſleep; but in an hour afterwards ſhe became violently convulſed, and every ſymptom of the moſt dreadful ſpaſmodic affection, ever witneſſed by any medical practitioner, now came on. The opiſthotonos and emproſthotonos alternately ſucceeding each other, the head and extremities were bent backwards ſo as almoſt to meet: ſoon after an action the reverſe of this took place; her chin and knees were contracted together, the muſcles of the face and her eyes were violently diſtorted, the latter being almoſt protruded from their ſockets; and during the paroxyſms ſhe frequently attempted to bite herſelf. In ſhort, every muſcle of her ſyſtem appeared more or leſs to labour under ſpaſmodic action.

In this deſperate ſtate I repeated the tinct. opii with ſome æther; but no relief being obtained, I ordered it to be given to her every two hours, and an emollient clyſter was alſo injected. This mode of treatment not anſwering my expectations, I ſent for a medical friend to ſee this ſingular and deplorable caſe; and as our preſent plan ſeemed to afford ſo unſucceſsful a proſpect, another expedient was adopted: Twelve ounces of blood were taken from her arm, and I ordered the abdomen and extremities of the body to be rubbed with an embrocation, conſiſting of the linimentum ſaponis and tinct. opii aa. ℥j; and 100 drops of the tinct. opii to be given internally, with æther. vitriol. ʒiſs. Twenty grains of the pil. gummoſæ were alſo adminiſtered every three hours, and I recommended her to go into a warm bath for ten minutes. The ſpaſms ſtill continuing, but with a leſſer degree of violence, Dr. Redfearn, a phyſician at Lynn, was ſent for to viſit her. After ſome deliberation, and having communicated to him the different remedies I had made uſe of, he ordered me to give her inſtantly 200 drops of the tinct. opii, and the following medicines were preſcribed:

℞. Emulſionis camphorat. ℥iv; tinct. opii, tinct. caſtorei aa ℥ſs. Miſce. fiat enema ſtatim injiciendum.

℞. Tinct. opii, ætheris vitriol. aa ℥j; ol. ſuccini ʒij. Fiat embrocatio toto corpori applicand. poſt balneum tepidum.

The following draughts were alſo preſcribed:

℞. Emulſionis camphorat. ℥iſs; tinct. digitalis purp. gt. xl; tinct. opii gt. 160; ætheris vitriol. ʒj. M. Fiat hauſtus tertiâ quaque horâ ſumendus.

The tinctura digitalis was increaſed gradually to 70 drops at one doſe. At laſt more favourable ſymptoms appeared; the ſpaſms were mitigated, and ſhe paſſed a tolerably eaſy night without being affected by them. However, on the following morning, a return of the former ſymptoms ſeemed to be rapidly coming on; her eyes were very much diſtorted, and the Doctor ordered the enema to be repeated with ʒij of the gum aſſafœtida added to it; and a bolus, compoſed of the different articles ſubjoined, to be inſtantly given.

℞. Opii purif. gt. vij; zinci calcinat. gt. iſs; pul. digit. purp. gt. ij; piperis cayenſis gt. iij. Syrup. s. s. Fiat bolus ſtatim ſumendus.

Soon after the above medicine was given, a general relaxation of the whole ſyſtem ſucceeded, attended with nauſea, and a total ceſſation of ſpaſmodic action. Being extremely debilitated, a diet of wine, eggs, and coffee was preſcribed, with as much nutriment in various forms as could be got down. The tinct. opii was now diminiſhed gradually, and vegetable and mineral tonics were adminiſtered. By continuing this regimen her health became perfectly eſtabliſhed, and ſhe has ever ſince remained entirely free from any return of ſpaſmodic action.

The quantity of the tinct. opii, taken internally at different times, in the courſe of three days, was two thouſand two hundred and ten drops; one ounce was injected per anum, and two ounces and a half applied externally.

Experiments, by Dr. Charles Darwin.

As the attention of medical practitioners has been for ſome time directed to the treatment and diagnoſis of Phthiſis Pulmonalis; and as the diſtinction of the complaint, and its ſeveral ſtages, depend in a conſiderable degree upon the matter expectorated, we believe our readers will be gratified by the following Extracts from the ſcarce work, Dr. Charles Darwin's *Experiments eſtabliſhing a Criterion between mucilaginous and purulent Matter.* An additional motive for reviving the ſubject at this time, is the great improvement which has been made

made in Chemiſtry ſince the year 1780, when that work was publiſhed; and the hope that ſome of our Correſpondents will be induced to favour the Public with their ſentiments on the diſtinction between aerated pus and the matter of tubercules.

Experiment I. To a drachm of very fœtid *purulent matter*, obtained from a common abſceſs, fifty drops of *vitriolic acid* were added. The acid ſunk to the bottom, while the purulent matter kept in the upper part of the glaſs; but, on the addition of about two ounces of water, the whole formed a turbid white *uniform mixture.*

Exp. II. About fifty drops of *vitriolic acid* were added to a drachm of *mucus*, coughed up from the lungs, and diſcharged from the noſe; the acid ſoon diſſolved the greateſt part of the mucus, but, on a proportion of water being added to the mixture, the mucus, which had been diſſolved, *ſwam on the top* of the fluid.

Exp. III. To fifty drops of *vitriolic acid*, diluted with about an ounce of water, were added about two drachms of pure *mucus*, coughed up from the lungs, and collected from the noſe; notwithſtanding repeated agitation, they could not be made to unite;—almoſt the whole mucus continued *afloat at the top*; and the watery fluid below loſt very little of its tranſparency, acquiring only a ſlight bluiſh caſt.

Exp. IV. On the addition of about two drachms of fœtid *purulent matter*, to fifty drops of *vitriolic acid*, diluted with about an ounce of water, an *uniform turbid fluid* of a whitiſh colour was formed, and which exactly reſembled that mentioned in the firſt experiment.

Exp. V. About two drachms of very fœtid *purulent matter* were combined by agitation with as much *mucus*. Theſe two fluids were ſo blended together, that no difference could be perceived. To this was added a mixture of fifty drops of *vitriolic acid* with two ounces of water. In a ſhort time the fluid in the under part of the glaſs had the ſame turbid appearance as in Experiment firſt and fourth, while the mucus apparently deprived of purulent matter ſwam on the top.

Exp. VI. All the five glaſſes mentioned in the preceding experiments, were allowed to remain at reſt about half an hour, during that time the glaſſes mentioned in experiments ſecond and third, which contained the mucus, remained unchanged. But the firſt, fourth, and fifth depoſited each a white coloured ſediment in conſiderable quantity; the fluid above the ſediment in firſt and fourth had become ſomewhat more tranſparent, but ſtill continued of a white colour. In the fifth the mucus continued to float on the ſurface as before

Exp. VII. The *mucus* collected from the top of the fifth was put into another glass, and an ounce of water impregnated with fifty drops of *caustic alkaline* lixivium* was added; but *no union* or solution could be produced even by the aid of triture.

Exp. VIII. Fifty drops of the *alkaline lixivium* were added to each of the phials No. 1, 2, 3, and 4; when 1 and 4 were agitated, the white sediment was again diffused in them; but, in a short time it subsided, leaving the liquor above of the same whitish colour as before the addition; the agitation of 2 and 3 had no effect in producing any union farther than before, the mucus in both still continuing to float on the surface.

Exp. IX. The *mucus* used in 7 and 8 was again put into a glass by itself, and about two drachms of *caustic alkaline* lixivium added to it. In this, by the aid of agitation, it was soon *completely dissolved*, losing entirely its viscidity, and leaving a froth on the top.

Exp. X. Two ounces of water added to the solution of *mucus in alkali*, No. 9, produced no decomposition; and had the effect only of giving the fluid a greater transparency; no change was produced on this fluid, when allowed to remain at rest for the space of half an hour, except that the froth on the surface disappeared.

Exp. XI. To half the liquor of 10, about a drachm of *nitrous acid* was added; the mixture became of a more turbid and white colour, but no deposition took place.

Exp. XII. A similar change of colour took place on the addition of a certain quantity of the *muriatic acid* to the remaining half of No. 10. But, even after the mixture had stood for half an hour, no sediment had fallen to the bottom of the vessel.

Exp. XIII. When the white coloured liquor on the surface was poured off from No. 1, 4, and 5, each of which deposited a sediment resembling *pus*, the sediments were again observed to emit a very fœtid smell. To these sediments, collected in one glass, about two drachms of *nitrous acid* were added. The mixture for a little time appeared uniform, but in a few minutes a thick white cloud was observed on the top of it, the liquor below being of a wheyish colour.

Exp. XIV. To the liquor, No. 13, was added about two ounces of water: The cloud which before swam on the surface, was, on slight agitation, uniformly diffused through it; and when the mixture was allowed to remain at rest for a short time, a sediment

* Pharmacop. Edinens.

ſediment fell to the bottom, exactly reſembling that which had appeared in Obſervation 6, to have happened in Experiment 1, 4, and 5; and this ſediment, when the fluid above was poured off, had alſo a fœtid ſmell.

[To be continued.]

To the Editors of the Medical and Phyſical Journal.

GENTLEMEN,

THEORETICAL diſquiſitions and controverſial communications are, perhaps, in ſome meaſure, foreign to the deſign of your publication, as tending to the excluſion of what may be conceived more immediately important and beneficial to the medicinal art: Encouraged, however, by former indulgences, and fully conſcious of the extreme liberality which has hitherto characterized the Medical and Phyſical Journal, I have taken the liberty of again intruding on your notice, by making ſome Obſervations on the *modus operandi of Febrifuge medicines*; or, rather, of ſuggeſting a few hints on this ſubject, and ſubmitting them, with the utmoſt deference, to the Medical Public, through the medium of your uſeful and inſtructive Miſcellany. —To this I am more particularly induced, in conſequence of a miſrepreſentation of a few remarks of mine, inſerted in one of your former numbers. That Dr. HUGGAN ſhould conſtrue my obſervations on his opinions into an oblique imputation of Enthuſiaſm to his encomiums on *opium* in the cure of *febrile diseases*, or a recommendation of *venæsection* in inflammatory fevers, appears altogether unaccountable; as I confidently maintained and aſſerted, on the authority of my own experience, the extreme utility of the former, and the baneful tendency of the latter, in fevers of every deſcription; and I have not the leaſt doubt, that the Doctor's practice in theſe complaints is in exact conformity with my own, though the principle and theory upon which ſuch practice is conducted, may in ſome degree differ.

The ſcience of medicine has, within a few years paſt, received very conſiderable and important improvements, in conſequence of a greater attention having been lately paid to the *causes* than the mere *phenomena* or *symptoms* of diſeaſes; and in no inſtance, perhaps, has this alteration in medical practice been more manifeſt or beneficial, than in the treatment of thoſe complaints which, from their generality and frequency of appearance,

pearance, may be confidered as *endemics* in this climate, viz. *fevers.* I humbly conceive, however, that, notwithftanding the improvements which have been already made, and the comparative fimplification which has obtained, we are far from having arrived at a ftate of perfection, either in this or in any other department of the healing art.

A derangement of the nervous fyftem, occafioning *general debility*, is an invariable attendant on fevers of every denomination; and to this fingle caufe, *debility*, are all the fymptoms which occur, under different circumftances of *constitution*, *situation*, *habit*, &c. of the patients to be referred: for, notwithftanding the minute divifion and extenfive claffification which have been adopted (and, doubtlefs, with great propriety) by nofological and fyftematic writers on febrile affections, there appears to be no fpecific or abftract difference in the difeafes themfelves, the variety of appearance which they affume being totally dependent upon the ftate of the conftitution receiving the affection. Thus, the fame caufes operating upon a perfon of a fanguine temperament and plethoric habits, fhall occafion the difeafe which has obtained the appellation of *inflammatory fever*, with fymptoms of vafcular excitement; which, on a patient of a contrary defcription, will be productive of a *typhus* or *nervous fever*.

In what fpecific manner the malign powers exert their influence on the fyftem, fo as to occafion that deviation from the healthy ftate, which gives rife to the phenomena of fever; or, in other words, what is the proximate caufe of fever, is not my intention here to enquire; as I conceive it to be a matter of flight confequence to afcertain; the minutiæ of theory being more calculated to difplay ingenuity, and amufe fpeculatifts, than to afford any material information; and an attention to rational principles and conduct in *practice*, is far preferable to thofe *theoretical refinements*, and *fanciful hypothefes*, which are, in the prefent day, by far too prevalent. I do not mean, by this affertion, to give the fmalleft encouragement to that empirical mode of practice, which pretends to preclude the neceffity of all reafoning *a priori* in medicine—far from it. No one, who judges impartially from premifes, will accufe the Poet of advancing any thing in favour of Free-Thinking, when he afferts, with refpect to modes of faith,

"*His can't be wrong whofe life is in the right.*"

his defign being merely to fhew the fuperiority of *practical piety* over *doctrinal diftinctions*, *theological difputations*, or *religious fanaticifm.*—But, to return, the *counteraction of nervous debility* being the principal objects to which the attention fhould be directed, in the treatment of febrile complaints, the

utility

utility and abſolute neceſſity of proceeding upon a *ſtimulant plan* of cure becomes obvious; and thus is the equal benefit derived from the exhibition of *opium* (one of the moſt powerful of all nervous ſtimuli) in inflammatory, typhus, or any other fever to be explained; this important and truly valuable medicine decreaſing the ſtrength and number of pulſations, in thoſe fevers which are characterized by ſymptoms of arterial ſtrength and vaſcular excitement, and producing effects exactly oppoſite, where occaſion requires.

That the advantageous effects of opium are to be referred ſolely to its *ſtimulating quality*, is alſo evident from the equal ſucceſs attending its adminiſtration in the *cold* and *hot* ſtages of an intermittent; which is a fact I have fully aſcertained from experience.

Nothing can poſſibly be more erroneous in theory, or injurious in practice, than the *antiphlogiſtic* plan of treatment in febrile diſorders; and *depriving* the animal machine of its only ſupport, at a time when its functions are impeded, or rendered irregular, ſolely in conſequence of *debility*, or *deficiency* of *excitement*, has been productive of incalculable miſchief!

How then, it may be urged, are we to account for the undeniable benefit which has attended the exhibition of *antimonial preparations*, *nitre*, and other medicines of the *refrigerant* claſs?—A very general miſunderſtanding ſeems to have obtained with reſpect to the action of theſe medicines; for a minute examination into their effects, will ſhew the propriety of ranking them in the claſs, not of *antiphlogiſtics*, or *refrigerants*, (which, by the way, are indefinite terms) but of *ſtimulants*. To illuſtrate this doctrine, it will be only neceſſary to recollect the conſequences frequently produced by the adminiſtration of antimonials in the incipient ſtate of a *nervous fever*. When the quickneſs, ſmallneſs, and irregularity of the arterial pulſations, diſtreſſing pains in the head, extreme oppreſſion of the mind, and other ſymptoms are preſent, denoting the higheſt ſtate of *nervous debility*, a doſe of *pulv. antim.* in ſuch quantity as to create a ſlight nauſea of the ſtomach, will often reduce the pulſe to its proper ſtandard, and, by inducing a regularity and due proportion between the action and re-action of the ſyſtem, will effectually arreſt the further progreſs of the diſeaſe. Can theſe effects be accounted for upon any other principle than a ſympathetic excitement of the nervous ſyſtem, from the temporary derangement in the functions of the ſtomach?*

With

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* Would not *mercurial oxyds*, or any other mineral preparations, adminiſtered with care and attention, be productive of equal advantages with antimonial medicines? and is not the benefit derived from the exhibition of *arſenic. alb.* in fevers, to be referred to its operation on the ſtomach?

With respect to *nitre*, its use in *scrophulous* and other diseases, originating in *debility*, and an inactive state of the living powers, as well as the experiments of Dr. *Percival* and others, prove it to possess a stimulating property, which is also further corroborated by the extraordinary success attending its administration in *typhus*, as related by Dr. *Wood*; and a case is somewhere mentioned, of an inflammation of the stomach supervening upon an over dose of this medicine, which is contradictory to the supposition of its acting as a refrigerant. I am moreover informed, that people who are in the habit of taking a large quantity of *acids*, and substances containing much oxygen, are constantly found to have their blood in a *sizy state*.

The above remarks are by no means intended as a recommendation of an indiscriminate and invariable mode of practice in all kinds of fevers; such a doctrine could only be founded in absurdity, and dictated by phrenzy; but are merely for the purpose of endeavouring to simplify the curative indications, and thus to improve the treatment of those diseases, which, on account of their universality, and frequent danger, demand the particular attention of the medical practitioner, and in which an erroneous practice has been productive of more mischievous consequences, and fatal effects, than probably the diseases themselves would have occasioned, had they been left entirely under the guardianship of Nature. I am,

GENTLEMEN,

With the greatest respect,

Your obedient servant,

DAVID UWINS.

Grenville Street, London,
June 13, 1800.

Reflections on the Case of a young Girl, who died with Symptoms of Hydrophobia.

By C. BOSQUILLON, Physician to the Chief Hospital, (Grand Hospice) at Paris.

I HAVE proved (says the Doctor) in my Commentaries on the Elements of Practical Medicine by CULLEN, that terror alone may determine the symptoms of hydrophobia or madness, in those who had been bitten by an animal suspected to be attacked with this disorder. Numbers of persons have been seen to labour under symptoms of this nature, and to recover on being informed that the dog that had bitten them was not mad. There are others, on the contrary, have become suddenly hydrophobial

drophobial on learning, at the end of a considerable time, that the persons bitten at the same period with themselves had died with symptoms of hydrophobia. The informations which I have received on the case of the young person in question, have convinced me that terror alone produced all the terrible effects which she had experienced. She was bitten the 11th Frimaire, (Dec. 1,) by a little dog of six months old, naturally snappish; it had, however, never ceased to obey the orders of its masters, nor did it appear to know them less than usual; its eyes had nothing menacing in their look, nor was there any froth about the mouth. The family was just informed of a person recently dead by madness; it was imagined that this little dog was attacked by the same malady; they resolved to drown it, and this they did without assuring themselves of the apprehended fact.

What an impression might not this be supposed to make upon a girl of fourteen years and a half, extremely sensitive, and of a very lively imagination! From this moment she became deeply thoughtful; about forty days afterwards she hurt the finger bitten, in attempting to cleave a piece of wood; the cicatrice of the wound where she was bitten opened again, and her uneasiness greatly increased. During the periodical evacuation incidental to her sex, she had occasion to put her hands in cold water; a suppression took place, and that was followed, the 30th Nivose, (January 19,) fifty-one days after the bite, with a violent head-ach accompanied with fever, a contraction of the throat, a frequent sneezing, and unquenchable thirst. Fumigations were made use of to relieve the head-ach, but presently universal tremblings and convulsions took place. She drank with perfect ease till the 2d Pluviose (Jan. 21), when she let fall a glass of water which her mother offered her; her hand and her whole body, her countenance especially, were at that instant greatly agitated by convulsive movements. Those about her, being greatly frightened, occasioned her to be conveyed that same evening to the Great Hospital. She was much affected to find they tied her in her bed, which it is the custom to do with hydrophobial patients. She passed the night in a disturbed condition; the next morning she pushed back a glass of water they offered her, and fell into convulsions; she was, nevertheless, very thirsty. They made her drink out of a biberon; she swallowed the liquid with precipitation, and complained even that they did not pour it out fast enough. She preferred water tinctured with red, or mixed with a little sweet orange-flower water; but at every time she swallowed, the convulsive movements returned: nevertheless, she endured the sight of a large vessel which was brought to her for the purpose of bleeding her in the foot. Her feet were left in it a

long time, and ſtill ſhe did not fall into convulſions. Her imagination became greatly inflamed; ſhe talked with much volubility, and bitterly complained that ſhe had heard nothing but of madneſs ſince ſhe was bitten. I ſaw her the 4th Pluvioſe (January 23,) an hour before her death; ſhe was greatly dejected and ſunk down, and had a pale, waſted countenance; every thing announced that ſhe was out of the reach of all relief. Hydrophobial patients, on the contrary, generally die in ſtrong convulſions, which come on even frequently at the inſtant when we think them better. Their colour changes but little; which, without doubt, has given reaſon for the world to believe that they have been ſtifled to death; moreover, the convulſions have only appeared the third day of the diſorder; they have been preceded by fever, and a contraction of the throat, apparently the effect of inflammation in the œſophagus and the trachea arteria; indeed, it can hardly be doubted but that is the caſe, when we conſider the extraordinary quantity of ſaliva, and of mucus, with which we find theſe parts filled after death, and of the redneſs throughout them. In ſhort, the true hydrophobia, as well as other convulſive idiopathic diſorders, is never preceded by fever; it comes on at once. All this proves therefore that terror alone threw this young girl into the frightful ſtate which occaſioned her death.

It was neceſſary, in order to preſerve her, that thoſe who ſurrounded her ſhould have taken quite a contrary courſe to that which they obſerved, and have compoſed and comforted her mind; and, above all, have perſuaded her that the animal was not mad. Tranquillity of the mind alone may keep off this cruel diſeaſe. It becomes eſſential then, as well for thoſe who have been bitten, as for the progreſs of the art, to keep the dogs, or other animals, ſuppoſed mad, ſhut up ſafely in a convenient place for five or ſix weeks; the madneſs always ſhows itſelf in the courſe of this time, and they die in a few days when the hydrophobia comes on. When they are attacked by any other diſorder, the proof of what it is is ſoon obtained. By ſuch a procedure we may avoid creating a great many torments or apprehenſions, at leaſt in thoſe who have been bitten by ſuch animals; we ſhould not be obliged to keep them, for two months together, tied down in their beds, as is the common cuſtom, ſubjecting them to a treatment which may well augment their fears, and determine or fix that diſorder which it is our deſign to prevent. It is proper alſo that the public ſhould know, that it is proved that in all thoſe who have been bitten by animals with the hydrophobia, a twentieth part at moſt experience the ſymptoms of hydrophobia, and that theſe are generally perſons of minds the moſt ſenſitive, and ſubject

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to alarm. I do not know that children, who have not attained the age of reaſon, have ever experienced theſe ſymptoms.

Paris, 20th Pluviose. BOSQUILLON.

To the Editors of the Medical and Phyſical Journal.

GENTLEMEN,

IN looking over Profeſſor HUFELAND's deſervedly celebrated Treatiſe on Scrofula,* I was ſtruck with the following caſe, which he conſiders as an uncommon one, and ſays, that he had never heard of any thing ſimilar, except ſome caſes related by *Hillary* in his *Obſervations on the Diseases, &c. of Barbadoes.* I have been induced to tranſlate it, as I do not know that the original work has yet appeared in an Engliſh dreſs, and hope you will do me the favour to inſert it in your excellent Journal. I have added a caſe, which I had an opportunity of obſerving a few years ago, ſo nearly ſimilar that they may be conſidered as analogous. I am,

GENTLEMEN,

Your obedient ſervant,

JOHN BELL, Surgeon.

His Majeſty's Ship, Pelican,
Plymouth, June 10, 1800.

" *A Species of Elephantiaſis from a Scrofulous Cauſe.*

" A girl of a ſcrofulous habit, who had frequently running ears, ſore eyes, and other ſymptoms of a ſcrofulous ſtate during her infancy, had paſſed very favourably through the ſmall-pox in her eleventh year, and had enjoyed a good ſtate of health for the two ſucceeding years, was attacked in her thirteenth year with a ſwelling in the left foot, which ſoon extended to the calf of the leg. After ſome general internal and external remedies had been uſed, the tumefaction diſappeared, but returned in a ſhort time, and increaſed to ſuch a degree, that it extended from the toes up to the hip: the leg was more than double the ſize of the other, rather cold than warm, pale, and the ſwelling ſo hard, that no impreſſion could be left on it with

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* See *Hufeland Ueber die Natur, Erkenntniſſmittel, und Heilart der Skrofelkrankheit, &c.* 2d edit. *Jena*, 1797.

the finger. The patient was in other reſpects apparently healthy, had a blooming hue on her countenance, and a cheerful temper, but had ſometimes pain and reſtleſsneſs; the natural and vital functions were good.

" After having thus paſſed a period of ſix months without uſing any medicine, a phyſician was conſulted, who treated her chiefly with evacuants and laxatives. From this time ſhe became very languid, loſt her colour and appetite; the foot got no better, and the idea of curing her being abandoned, ſhe in a few months acquired her former ſtrength and cheerfulneſs.

" Some time afterwards a veſicle appeared on the inſide, a little above the knee of the diſeaſed leg, from which a yellowiſh watery fluid was diſcharged. This diſcharge ceaſed ſpontaneouſly, but returned in a ſhort time, when the matter took on the appearance of curdled milk, and became ſo corroſive, as to excoriate the ſurrounding ſkin. The leg became ſtill larger and harder, and the ſkin in many places felt knotty, and as firm as leather; the other leg remained perfectly ſound. About this time ſhe was attacked occaſionally with violent feveriſh paroxyſms, attended with anxiety, delirium, and congeſtions of blood in the head, which were cauſed by the near approach of the natural period of menſtruation.

" Some months afterwards, when ſhe had attained her ſixteenth year, and the diſeaſe had been of three years ſtanding, ſhe was ordered to take *ſpongia uſta*, *radix ſerpentariæ*, *pilulæ ſcillæ*, and *decoctum ligni guiaici*; fomentations of herbs, with *camphor* and *volatile alcali*, were applied externally to the leg, and *aqua lytharg. acet. comp.* to the ſore.

Theſe medicines cauſed diarrhœa, and ſometimes vomiting, and increaſed the urinary diſcharge, but the leg got no better, except that the ſore was dried up: the medicines were continued. A few weeks afterwards ſhe had another attack of the feveriſhneſs mentioned above, with anxiety, delirium, and diſordered circulation, which continued for ſome days; and immediately afterwards, the diſeaſed leg was ſomewhat ſofter, and acquired a red and purpliſh colour. A ſhining and very tenſe tumour aroſe under the calf, in which the patient complained that there was a violent and painful pulſation.

" She continued the ſame medicines, with the addition of Hoffman's ſublimate pills. A fortnight afterwards the tumour under the calf of the leg inflamed greatly, burſt, and diſcharged a yellow-coloured pus, and the ſore above the knee alſo broke out again. In a little time the leg became ſomewhat ſmaller.

" For a whole year after this, the moſt active medicines, as *hydrarg. muriat. pulvis plummeri*, *arnica*, *aſſafœtida*, *zinc. vitriolat*, *cicuta*, friction with *ungt. hydrarg. fort.* fumigations with

with *hydrarg. sulphurat. rub.* warm baths and ſhower baths, with chalybeate and ſulphureous waters, were made uſe of.

"The ſize and hardneſs of the leg were not diminiſhed by theſe means, but rather ſeemed to become more conſiderable. Beſide the ſores already mentioned, ſeveral hard glandular tumours appeared, which inflamed, ſuppurated, and diſcharged an acrid lymph, which often cauſed great pain in the ſurrounding parts. She had feveriſh attacks from time to time, which continued a few days, and generally left the leg much worſe. Her menſes appeared in the middle of the year, without in the leaſt changing this dreadful evil.

"At the cloſe of the year, the leg was of a monſtrous circumference, felt hard and ſcirrhous quite up to the hip, and was in many parts covered with ſcabbed, ſuppurating, and inflamed places. What is very remarkable, the growth of the patient went on; her menſes were regular, ſhe ate and drank with an appetite, and all her functions were natural. The diſeaſe remained entirely topical.

"In this way ſhe remained for three years longer, during which the diſeaſe ſtill increaſed, and died at laſt from hectic fever and atrophy.

"I take this, which is certainly a very remarkable caſe, from the papers of my late revered father. From every ſymptom, and from the whole tenour of the diſeaſe, it is evident that it was nothing more than a diſeaſe of the glands and lymphatic veſſels of the part, and therefore a ſcrofulous diſeaſe; and hence it is apparent to what a dreadful height it may arrive, and likewiſe for what a length of time it may remain merely topical.

"With reſpect to the appearance which the diſeaſe here took on, I have read of nothing ſimilar, except the caſes which Hillary deſcribes under the appellation of Elephantiaſis, the diſtinguiſhing ſymptoms of which were a monſtrous hard glandular ſwelling of one leg, a totally indurated cellular membrane, and a rough, irregular, and ſcaly ſurface, with which the patient often lived, for twenty years, without any other function being diſturbed by it. He alſo remarks feveriſh attacks from time to time, which invariably increaſed the evil, and threw freſh metaſtaſes on the diſeaſed leg."

A girl of thirteen years of age was ſeized with general ſwelling of the left leg, from the knee to the ancle; and it was ſo painful that ſhe could not bear to have it touched. It looked a little red for a few days, and afterwards became pale; but without any diminution of pain, though the ſwelling rather decreaſed.

creafed. A week afterwards fhe was attacked with feverifh-nefs, thirft, reftlefsnefs, and great heat of the fkin, for which fome laxative medicines and antimonials, with opiates at night, were ordered; and the leg was rubbed, whenever fhe could be prevailed upon to fubmit to it, with *ungt. ceræ* and *calomel.* About a month after the firft attack, the pain became more violent; fhe could not be prevailed on to lay down in bed, but conftantly fat in an elbow chair, with the foot refting upon a pillow on the floor. She could not now bear to have it rubbed, or even to wear a loofe ftocking or bandage, and was afraid to let her petticoats touch it. In this way it continued about fix months with little variation, except that the whole leg became œdematous and greatly fwelled, fo as to be of more than three times its natural fize.

The fkin and cellular membrane foon became indurated from below the knee down to the toes, poffeffed very little feeling, and felt hard and firm like leather; yet ftill fhe complained of violent deep-feated pain, and fcreamed out in great agony if any one attempted to move her. At the end of a year, feveral fcirrhous-like tumours, of the fize of a filbert, appeared on different parts of the leg and foot, which inflamed, fuppurated, and difcharged a thin, curdled ferum; they were not very painful.

In this way fhe continued for another year, the leg increafing in thicknefs, and the fkin and cellular fubftance growing ftill harder; and during this period fhe was fubject to frequent feverifh attacks, which reduced her ftrength greatly, and wore her down to a mere fkeleton.

Towards the clofe of the year, an abfcefs, of confiderable fize, appeared on the *trochanter major* of the left thigh, which burft, and difcharged at firft a large quantity of good pus, which was foon changed to a thin ferum; and after having been ill above two years and a half, fhe died during one of the feverifh attacks, already mentioned, without ever having lain down in bed during that period, after the firft month.

It was thought from the firft, and during the progrefs of the difeafe, to be a cafe of *Necrosis Ossium*; but on examining after death, no fuch difeafe was found, for the bones of the leg and foot were found, but rather fofter than ufual. The adipofe membrane, which contained a great quantity of ferum in its cells, and the fkin, were found to be the fole feat of the difeafe.

A variety of medicines were tried in this cafe, but without the leaft good effect, and fhe only experienced relief from large dofes of opium.

To

To the Editors of the Medical and Phyſical Journal.

GENTLEMEN,

THROUGH accidental delay, your Journal for April has but juſt reached me; in that Number is a paper from Dr. Sherwen, in which he complains, in an epithet not leſs *harſh* than *unmerited*, of my having unneceſſarily reflected on the correctneſs of his experience in the medicinal efficacy of Fox-glove.* Your indulging me with a few words in explanation, will probably adjuſt the miſunderſtanding, by convincing even the Doctor himſelf, that the remark alluded to, was not (to borrow his own language) "*unneceſſary, and therefore not impertinent.*"

I repeat that the Doctor has, apparently, with the moſt humane intention, cautioned againſt the free uſe of Fox-glove; but that the ground of his dread, reſpecting its producing ſiniſter effects, exiſts in his having not employed it ſo extenſively as has occured to me to do in numerous inſtances, without having witneſſed any pernicious conſequence to acrue from it.

With whatever benevolence of deſign a medicine may be objected to, as being "*inſidious*" in its operation, and *poſſeſſing* "*deleterious* and *poiſonous properties*," the caution cannot be admitted as founded on *accurate experience*, when it is well known, that it may be adminiſtered in all ages and temperaments, and in much larger doſes than many articles of the materia medica, *e. g.* corroſive muriate of quickſilver, arſenic, tartariſed antimony, &c. without inconvenience.

The moſt ſalutary medicines, by abuſe, may indiſputably prove the moſt deadly poiſons; but, for that reaſon, to decry them as poſſeſſing poiſonous properties, and unfit for popular employ, might ſerve injuriouſly to check a due inveſtigation of their powers, by thoſe even who might be fully competent to the reſearch.

The ſubject of diſpute then centers merely in, whether it be neceſſary to denounce a medicinal ſubſtance of acknowledged ſalutary powers as poiſonous, becauſe it might prove ſo by injudicious uſe? or to rank it among the moſt efficient agents, capable of being employed within certain limits, without any riſk of producing deleterious effects? In the latter eſtimation I am inclined to hold Fox-glove, as moſt conducive to the ultimate

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* Vide Medical and Phyſical Journal, Vol. III. p. 122.

timate eſtabliſhment of its real powers. Nor, in my apprehenſion, is much to be feared from the popular uſe of this remedy, under the reſtrictions uſually promulgated relative to a powerful medicine. I can feel no alarm for a dropſical or conſumptive patient infuſing the leaves of Fox-glove in the form of tea, and beginning with a table ſpoon full of it, gradually increaſing the doſe to a common tea-cup full. The nauſea induced by a ſlight exceſs of this medicine, will operate as a ſafeguard to its undue adminiſtration. It requires, indeed, no ſmall addreſs to prevail on a patient who has been ſeverely ſickened by an over-doſe of Fox-glove, to recur to its uſe; hence it may be preſumed, that fewer inſtances of its proving poiſonous in domeſtic employ would occur, than of its arreſting and curing deſtructive diſeaſes.

Dr. Sherwen's avowed experience of the ſucceſsful uſe of the ſeeds of Fox-glove, is implicitly credited by me; the trial was judicious, and, to my knowledge at leaſt, original. It deſerves to be repeated, on the Doctor's ſtatement of their ſuperior efficacy. No opportunity ſhall eſcape me of ſubjecting them to the teſt of experiment; yet, a poſteriori, it muſt be confeſſed, that much identity between the ſeminal ſtructure and the organic development of vegetable ſubſtances, cannot be reaſonably expected. The various ſecretions, depoſitions, and arrangements which obtain in the fully evolved vegetable, do not preſent in the germen; a ſuſceptibility only for theſe effects, under ſuitable agency, exiſts in that embryon ſtate.

The medicinal efficacy of plants is probably referable to the conſtitution of principles, reſulting from the peculiar organic actions of the different parts of the vegetable fabric.

This remark is not intended to diſparage the authority of Dr. Sherwen's experience; it would appear from his teſtimony, that the powers of the Fox-glove were really concentrated in the ſeed. This fact would likewiſe warrant me in making trial of the roots of Fox-glove, as probably poſſeſſing alſo the native energies of the plant in ſuperior perfection.

I cannot approve of Dr. Sherwen's propoſal of drying the Fox-glove in a ſtrong expoſition to the ſun. Are not the ſenſible properties of all plants leaſt diminiſhed in drying, when the proceſs of exſiccation has been carried on in ſecluſion from ſolar light? And, on parity of reaſon, are not the remote and proximate arrangement of principles (on which medicinal efficacy muſt eſſentially depend) alſo liable to be more deranged by the decompoſing power of light, than by ſlow exhalation produced by moderate temperature in a dark ſituation?

It appears to me that a preferable mode for drying Fox-glove, in common with all other plants intended for medicinal

uſe

uſe, is, to ſtrew the recent leaves on the ſurface of tin plates, and introduce them into an *oven* previouſly heated, and kept to about the temperature of eighty degrees of Fahrenheit's thermometer. If the mouth of the oven be ſtopped during the proceſs, every adventitious influence from light and air will be ſufficiently precluded. In this heat the humidity of the plant will be ſpeedily, equally, and uninterruptedly detached, leaving the elementary and conſtituent principles in as near a ſtate of native arrangement, as the ceſſation of organic life can admit.

A caſe of hæmoptyſis, of three weeks ſtanding, in a married lady, aged about twenty-five, under circumſtances of ſtrong conſtitutional tendency to pulmonary conſumption, has been lately cured by the tincture of Fox-glove under my direction; it afforded ſpeedy relief; was taken during three weeks; more than thirty drops could not be borne without nauſea. The pulſe occaſionally intermitted under its influence; was raiſed from a ſmall, hard vibration, to much comparative ſoftneſs and fullneſs, but uniformly exceeded in frequency the natural ſtandard.

It has alſo been ſucceſsfully employed by me, within theſe few weeks, in two other inſtances. One, an elderly man, ſuffering under habitual aſthma, with urgent cough and rapid emaciation. Not having any of the tincture at hand, the powder was ſubſtituted, in doſes of one grain three times a day. Its efficacy was ſtrongly felt in the courſe of a week, in the abatement of cough, return of appetite, and other convaleſcent changes. No nauſea nor ſenſible impreſſion on the pulſe was produced, it ſteadily retained a morbid hardneſs and frequency. The patient is now perfectly free from cough; reſpires with tolerable freedom, but complains of undiminiſhed debility.

The other was a boy, about ſixteen years of age, who had been afflicted nearly two months with febrile paroxyſms, recurring every evening, cough, dyſpnœa, mucous expectoration, preternatural tenſion of the abdomen, and an icteric diſcolouration of the whole ſkin. The tincture was taken upwards of three weeks; not more than twenty drops could be endured; its operation was moſt ſtrongly ſoporific; the patient was rendered ſo extremely and diſtinctly comatoſe by its agency, that, in a few minutes after taking it, he would irreſiſtibly fall aſleep, and that ſo ſoundly, and durably, as to require at times to be actually rouſed from his lethargic ſtate. His diſpoſition to ſlumber, after the firſt week of employing the Fox-glove, was ſo inſuperably ſtrong, that he could not, without much effort, either raiſe his chin from his cheſt, or open his eyes, to relate how he felt. He deſcribed his ſenſations, however,

CRITICAL RETROSPECT
OF
MEDICAL AND PHYSICAL LITERATURE.

[FOREIGN AND DOMESTIC.]

Tranſactions of a Society for the Improvement of Medical and Chirurgical Knowledge. Illuſtrated with copper-plates. Vol. II. 8vo. pp. 380. *London,* Johnſon. 1800.

THE deſign of this work is ſimilar to that of Duncan's Annals of Medicine, or Dr. Simmons's Medical Facts. It appears to be the intention of the editors to admit original papers only; and while they are ſupplied by ſuch names as ornament the preſent volume, there can be no doubt that the work will maintain its popularity.

This volume contains twenty-nine papers on ſome of the moſt intereſting ſubjects of medicine and ſurgery, from which we ſelect the following extracts.

Account of a Caſe in which Death was brought on by a Hæmorrhage from the Liver. By G. BLANE, M. D. F. R. S. &c. *Read May* 6, 1794.

" A BOY, aged eight years, of a delicate conſtitution, ſmall ſtature, and pale complexion, whoſe family on the father's ſide had been extremely ſubject to phthiſis pulmonalis, but he himſelf having no ſymptoms of ſcrofula or rickets, or any external blemiſh or deformity, except that his belly had always been too large, and he had been ſubject to complaints of the ſtomach and bowels through life, began to complain on the 12th of March, 1794, of languor, loſs of appetite, and ſlight pains, which he referred to his breaſt and ſtomach. Theſe ſymptoms continued the ſame next day, but became more ſevere on the 14th, and remained ſo the three following days, on the laſt of which he became feveriſh, and there was an eruption of red ſpots on the neck and breaſt, which laſted only a few hours. On the 18th and 19th, the ſymptoms were milder, and he was thought to be recovering; but in the night between the 19th and 20th, he was ſeized with a ſevere pain, which he referred to the left hypochondrium. This continued between five and ſix

as being agreeable, and expreſſed his firm perſuaſion that he gained ground daily. The recurrence of the febrile paroxyſms was ſoon obviated, and every other ſymptom progreſſively amended, excepting the ſallow hue of the ſkin. The pulſe did not intelligibly correſpond with the effects produced, it was neither ſenſibly retarded, nor ſtrengthened, but continued morbidly quick and feeble. The friends of the patient deſiſted from proſecuting the uſe of the medicine, from a belief that his recovery was ſufficiently advanced.

An additional proof of the *inſufficiency* of Fox-glove, in the cure of the *laſt ſtage* of pulmonary conſumption, has been recently afforded by the fatal termination of the caſe of a young man under my care, to whom it had been freely exhibited in every variety of form, and under the moſt approved collateral regulations, during three months, with no farther benefit than temporary alleviation; latterly, it became quite inert, unleſs given in doſes of ſixty drops, when noxious ſickneſs occaſionally enſued. It was at length relinquiſhed as *uſeleſs*, when the ſubſtitution of ſmall doſes of opium, in a diluted ſolution of ſulphuric acid, taken at ſhort intervals, produced the moſt gratifying palliative effects. I am,

Gentlemen,

Your's, very reſpectfully,

R. KINGLAKE, M. D.

Chilton, ſuper Peldon,
June 19, 1800.

CRITICAL

hours, and he then became ſuddenly faint, and loſing all ſenſe and motion was thought to be in a ſwoon, but from this he never recovered.

"This is the account which I received from the family and the medical gentleman who attended, for I did not ſee him during his illneſs; and not having been ſent for till he was in extremities, he had died before I arrived.

"Leave was obtained to examine the body, and the following appearances were obſerved. Upon laying open the abdomen, a large quantity of coagulated blood was diſcovered, covering the whole left ſide of the inteſtines. In exploring the ſource of this, ſeveral fiſſures were obſerved in the left lobe of the liver, which were about two-thirds of an inch in length, whence the blood had undoubtedly flowed, for they were found to lead to a cavity in the ſubſtance of the lobe of about the ſize of a pigeon's egg, and full of blood. The peritonæum, on the ſurface of that part of the liver which was near one of the fiſſures, was raiſed from the liver like a bliſter, full of coagulated blood. Theſe appearances were on the lower ſurface of the lobe, but on the upper ſurface of the ſame lobe there was one fiſſure, round which was a ſimilar collection of blood between the peritonæum and the ſubſtance of the liver, and it led to a ſmall bloody cavity near the ſurface of the liver.

"There was no external livor, or other mark of injury either on the adjacent *parietes*, or on the ſpleen or inteſtines.

"It ſeems moſt probable therefore, that the rupture and conſequent hæmorrhage were owing to the weak ſtructure of the liver, which correſponded with the general weakneſs of this young perſon's frame.

"It would appear that it is this weakneſs, proceeding from a too great tenuity of the coats of the veſſels, that chiefly conſtitutes the ſcrofulous habit, of which the principal ſymptoms ſeem referrible to a rupture of the ſmaller ſeries of veſſels either circulatory or lymphatic, and the conſequent effuſion either of red blood or colourleſs fluids, occaſioning ſometimes hæmorrhages, but more frequently interſtitial or glandular depoſits. The fine ſkin and ſilky hair obſervable in ſuch habits are farther in proof of this.

"As far as my reading goes, I have not met with any morbid affection of the liver ſimilar to that above deſcribed, or have I ever ſeen or heard of ſuch a caſe, which has made me think that it might deſerve a place in ſome regiſter of facts. It has indeed been alleged, that there is not much utility in recording extraordinary and anomalous caſes, as they are ſeldom the objects of practice. But if there is any juſtice in this remark, it applies rather to unuſual combinations of ſymptoms, than to morbid appearances detected by diſſection; for as the number of bodies that are inſpected is comparatively ſmall, there is reaſon to preſume, that, in the numberleſs others which are not examined, there may be many among them ſimilarly affected."

The

The third paper contains an elaborate

Account of the Croup, as it appeared in the Town and Neighbourhood of Cheſham, in Buckinghamſhire, in the Years 1793 *and* 1794. By HENRY RUMSEY, Surgeon at Cheſham.

IN this account the author ſees reaſon for admitting the exiſtence of *ſpaſmodic* croup as well as inflammatory; and he ſays,

"It appears to me that the croup is an inflammation of its own kind. If it conſiſted in common inflammation, we might expect to find the ſame appearances (that is, the ſame kind of concretion on the ſurface of the trachea) every day, as its mucous membrane is ſo frequently the ſubject of inflammation attended with an increaſed ſecretion. The matter, however, of which this ſubſtance is formed, poſſeſſes different properties from thoſe of the mucous which is thrown out upon the membrane of the noſe, or of the trachea in common catarrhal affections.

"I think it probable, that the film which we find in the croup is not formed by a ſecretion from the mucous glands, but is an exſudation from the exhalant arteries. Upon this principle we can more eaſily account for ſuch film not being found in common catarrhal affections, in which the mucous glands are perhaps more the ſeat of the diſeaſe. It is, therefore, analogous to the inflammatory exſudation in the inflammation of other internal membranes firſt deſcribed by the late Dr. Hunter.

"The croup has been ſometimes thought infectious, but I have not been able to form a decided opinion upon this point. Some circumſtances render it probable, as two and ſometimes three children in the ſame family have been ſeized with it. But on the other hand, I have at different times ſeen two or three in a family eſcape, while one or two of the others have died of it, without any pains being taken to keep thoſe who were in health from the ſick. When a diſeaſe is epidemic, it is ſometimes difficult to determine whether it be communicated by infection, or whether ſeveral people have the diſeaſe in conſequence of their being expoſed to the ſame exciting cauſe. It is rather remarkable, that although there were between twenty and thirty children in our workhouſe, only one had the diſeaſe."

In the treatment the author thinks that calomel, in alterative doſes, as recommended by Dr. Ruſh, proved a uſeful remedy.

An Account of two Cases, ſhewing the Existence of the Small-Pox and the Measles in the same Person at the same Time. By P. RUSSEL, M. D. F. R. S.

"THE Meaſles and the Small-pox were epidemical at Aleppo, in the year 1765. They both made their appearance about the ſame time in December of the preceding year, and gradually increaſed through January, February, and part of March. The Meaſles diſappeared in April, while the Small-Pox lingered till the ſummer ſolſtice.

"Till the month of March, both diſeaſes were, in general, of a favourable kind. The eruption in the Meaſles commonly happened

pened on the evening of the third, or morning of the fourth day. The eruptions were firſt viſible on the face; and began to fade every where on the ſixth or ſeventh day, but ſeldom diſappeared entirely ſooner than the tenth. They were rather more prominent than thoſe which I had obſerved in Europe, and the branny ſkurf left on the ſkin was conſiderably leſs: in other reſpects there was no material variation from Sydenham's Accurate Deſcription of the Meaſles, epidemic at London in the Year 1670.

"After the beginning of March, the diſeaſe became more formidable. The eyes were more inflamed, the coryza, the cough, and the febrile ſymptoms were in a greater degree than in the former months. The eruption appeared irregularly from the ſecond to the ſeventh day of the fever. The eruptions often appeared on the breaſt before they were ſeen on the face; they were of a fainter colour, and the branny ſkurf was, in general, leſs. A vomiting and diarrhœa were common ſymptoms from the beginning; the latter continued throughout the diſeaſe; the former uſually ceaſed as ſoon as the eruption was complete: but very young ſubjects continued to be harraſſed by retchings, excited by the irritation of ſneezing or coughing.—About the height of the diſeaſe, the ſick were ſubject to ſhort exacerbations of the fever, accompanied with difficulty of breathing, and ſtitches in the cheſt, which recurred ſeveral times in the twenty-four hours. On the whole, the Meaſles, after the month of February, approached nearer to the anomalous ſpecies deſcribed by Sydenham under the year 1674.

"From the end of February, the Small-pox, which hitherto had been of a mild diſtinct kind, became irregular and much more fatal. The puſtules were confluent on the face; on other parts diſtinct, but generally flattiſh, and indented at the top. In many caſes they ſuppurated imperfectly; in others, they remained dry or huſky: and ſome inſtances occurred of their turning black about the ſeventh day. A diarrhœa and teneſmus frequently attended from the beginning to the end.

"Though a large proportion of the infected ſtill recovered, they continued long in a ſickly ſtate. Children were not only reduced by the diarrhœa, but were often attacked with the hooping-cough, or with erratic fevers, both being at that time epidemic in the city. In the more malignant kind of Small-pox, many died between the ſeventh and ninth day; ſome ſtruggled to the eleventh; very few recovered.

"When the Small-pox and the Meaſles prevailed in the ſame ſeaſon, many of the children ſuffered both diſeaſes in ſucceſſion, as uſual. The Meaſles were rarely obſerved to ſucceed the Small-pox in leſs than twenty days, reckoning from the eruption. The Small-pox commonly ſucceeded the Meaſles ſomewhat earlier in the third week; but ſeveral caſes were met with, in which the puſtules of the Small-pox were diſcovered on the face, before the total diſappearance of the Meaſles on the limbs; that is, on the eleventh or twelfth day.

"It

"It has already been remarked, that few of the infected in either diſeaſe died before the month of March. But from that time the mortality in the Small-Pox was conſiderable; as thoſe who had juſt before ſuffered from the Meaſles, and were reduced by the diarrhœa to a ſtate unfavourable for the reception of a fatiguing diſtemper, generally periſhed; unleſs the ſupervening Small-pox was of a mild kind. The danger appeared to be rather leſs where a bad kind of Meaſles ſucceeded the Small-pox.

"The reciprocal influence of the two diſeaſes in the ſame ſubject was carefully attended to in above three hundred caſes; and ſo little did the quality of the firſt diſeaſe ſeem to influence that of the ſecond, that a mild, diſtinct Small-pox was often obſerved to follow the worſt kind of Meaſles, and vice verſa.

"In the month of March, an inſtance occurred where both diſeaſes were conjoined in the ſame patient. The ſubject was a female child two years old, of a pale, delicate complexion. The redneſs of the eyes, the coryza, and the cough which accompanied the fever, led me to expect the Meaſles. On the fourth day, the eruptions of the Meaſles were viſible on the face, the neck, and the back; but at the ſame time a few eruptions of a different kind were interſperſed on the face and neck, which, if they had been the ſole eruption, I ſhould without heſitation have declared to be the Small-pox. The progreſs of the puſtules on the fifth proved them to be variolous. Both eruptions were of a favourable kind, and diſtinctly purſued their regular courſe. On the eighth day, the Meaſles were fading faſt, while the variolous puſtules on the face were near their height. The puſtules were not numerous, were very diſtinct, and ripened perfectly. The cough continued to be a troubleſome ſymptom, eſpecially in the ſecond week. A diarrhœa ſupervened about the fourteenth day, and contributed to render the child's recovery very ſlow.

"In the month of April I met with a ſimilar caſe. A healthy boy, three years old, was attacked with the uſual ſymptoms of the eruptive fevers, at that time epidemical. The cough rather ſeemed to indicate the Meaſles. On the third day, the eruptions of the Small-pox and Meaſles made their appearance together. The variolous puſtules were of the ſmall, round kind, and came to perfect maturity; but were more numerous than in the former caſe. The Meaſles were of a fainter colour, and left behind them ſtill leſs of the branny ſkurf, agreeing in both circumſtances with the diſeaſe then prevalent.

"On the ſixth day of the fever, a diarrhœa and teneſmus were joined to the haraſſing cough, and reduced the patient ſo low in the ſecond week, that his life was deſpaired of. The flux, however, leaving him towards the end of the month, he recovered."

An Addreſs to the Public on the Advantages of Vaccine Inoculation: with the Objections to it refuted. By HENRY JENNER, Surgeon, F. L. S. &c. 4to. pp. 20; London, Cadell and Davies.

THE author commences his *addreſs* by ſtating, "in the way of compariſon,

comparifon, the peculiar differences which mark the Small-pox and Cow-pox;" and he affirms that the ftatement is " in every particular, confirmed by very extenfive experience."

After the comparifon of the advantages which are to be derived from the fubftitution of the Vaccine Difeafe for the Small-pox, the author obferves, " It is perfectly confiftent with my prefent defign, briefly to notice the moft popular objections which have been urged againft the introduction of Cow-pox.

" It has been called a beftial humour, and by a fallacious affociation of ideas, it is fuppofed to introduce an *unnatural* difeafe into the conftitution.

" If this very weak and futile objection were worthy of reply, we might obferve, that the cow is of all others the moft healthy and the moft cleanly of our domeftic animals, and might alfo remark, that no females are fo healthy as our dairy maids, whofe morning and evening hours are fpent amongft the cows; and we fhould not forget that eminent phyficians recommend invalids to avail themfelves of the falubrious effects of the breath of the heifer. How void of foundation then muft be the objection to the infertion of an atom of matter taken from the teat of the cow, once in the life only, when every perfon is in the daily habit of introducing into his ftomach various parts of the fame animal. The human ftomach revolts not at beef, butter, cheefe, and cream; yet every one, acquainted with the animal economy, muft know, that thefe aliments are quickly mingled with the conftitution.

" Another grand objection (which indeed is the only one that ftrikes at the *foundation* of our theory) is, that perfons are liable to be affected with fmall-pox after having been inoculated with the Cow-pox.

" A very extenfive practice, and an equally extenfive communication of the experience of medical friends of the firft reputation, would almoft warrant a fhort, abrupt anfwer to this queftion; an anfwer conveyed in terms unaccommodated to the feelings of the prefent age. After this objection, which has been refuted as often as it has been urged, a laconic reply, conveyed in no polite language, would by no means be improper, as it would harmonize with the general mode of fuch objections; and by all laws, the anfwer ought to be of the colour of the queftion; but what is not owing to cavilling individuals, is a juft debt due to a candid and judicious public.

" Every cafe that has been brought forward to undermine the theory we defend, we can prove to a demonftration was not one of the *genuine* kind. There are *three* difeafes which have indifcriminately been termed Cow-pox, only *one* of which is the real preventive of fmall-pox. In the fpring feafon particularly, cows are frequently fent to market for fale: the farmer omits to milk them in the morning, previous to their fetting out, that their udders may appear full, and the animals on that account become more valuable. The frequent confequence is, that inflammation enfues, which terminates in eruptions on the teats and udder, and affects the

the milker with a loathſome diſeaſe on the hands, arms, and ſhoulders. The forehead ſometimes does not eſcape, from the circumſtance of the ſervant's leaning againſt the udder in milking. This diſeaſe may affect the ſame perſon ſeveral times, but it will *never* prove a preventive for Small-pox: a caſe of this kind occurs in the city of Briſtol; a Mr. Jacobs, attorney at law, was extenſively affected *twice* with this diſeaſe (which, from his total ignorance of *real* Cow-pox, he has called by that name,) but it did not prevent his being afflicted with a ſubſequent ſevere Small-pox.

Syſteme Methodique de Nomenclature, &c.—A Methodical Syſtem of Nomenclature and Claſſification of the Muſcles of the Human Body, with Deſcriptive Tables, ſhewing their Old and New Names, Situations, Attachments, Direction, Compoſition, Figure, Connexion, and their Uſes: To which is added, a Dictionary, containing the Synonyms of the Muſcles. By C. L. DUMAS, Profeſſor of Anatomy and Phyſiology, &c. &c. *Montpelier.* 4to. 200 pp.

IT is almoſt univerſally allowed that the anatomical terms which are at preſent in general uſe, are very imperfect, and by no means correſpond with the numerous and uſeful diſcoveries in this ſcience; an attempt to correct theſe defects will not now be conſidered ſo daring an innovation as it might have been formerly. Mons. Dumas, as profeſſor of anatomy, was conſtantly remarking the difficulty of teaching this ſcience from the crowd of abſurd names given to various parts; and has undertaken in this work, the very arduous and uſeful taſk of rectifying them; and though he may not have fully anſwered our expectations, yet we think a tranſlation of this work, with ſome alterations that would occur on a careful peruſal, would be a very acceptable preſent to the ſtudents of anatomy of this country.

In the third chapter, the author conſiders ſome of the defects of anatomical language in general, and the mode of correcting it; and we tranſlate the following as a ſpecimen of his manner of treating the ſubject.

"A ſlight examination of the moſt common anatomical terms will be ſufficient to ſhew the incorrectneſs and impropriety of a great number of them. There are ſome which are ſtrictly arbitrary, and others which have no determined ſignification, and which any anatomiſt may change at pleaſure. Under this claſs may be ranged all thoſe denominations drawn from numerical orders, &c. which expreſs neither ſituation, form, figure, nor connexion, but only the number of parts, which does not define any thing *anatomically*. Of courſe, we reject the names of firſt, ſecond, and third phalanx, &c. terms given to bones which have no agreement or relative ſize. *Veſalius's* terms of firſt, ſecond, third, fourth, fifth, ſixth, &c. muſcles of the arm; *Columbus's* firſt, ſecond, and third muſcles of the *triceps*; *Winſlow's* firſt, ſecond, and third *adductors* of the thigh;

and firſt and ſecond *external radial*; and *ſimilar* names given to muſcles which differ in ſituation, attachment, and figure, muſt at once appear ridiculous.

"If anatomical terms have ſometimes a vague and arbitrary ſignification, there are ſeveral that have no meaning at all. What ſenſe can be annexed to *blind hole, oſſa innominata, acceſſary muſcle, ſublime muſcle, humble muſcle, profound muſcle, pudendal artery, &c. &c. Turks ſaddle, par vagum, recurrent nerve, nates, teſtes & vulva cerebri?* How is it poſſible to aſſociate ſuch ridiculous expreſſions with any true and clear ideas of anatomy?

"There are other names perhaps leſs abſurd, although not more regular, which actually tell us what they do not mean—ſuch are the names of *vena cava*, which is not the only vein that is hollow, and *ductus arterioſus* to diſtinguiſh a duct, which is actually ligamentous in the adult.—*Arbor vitæ*, to characterize the ramifications which the internal ſurface of the *cerebellum* preſents when cut vertically, and in which nature has not excluſively placed the ſeat of life, &c.

"The frequent uſe of terms in an abſolute ſenſe, which are only relative, is an eſſential defect in anatomical language. The adjectives, *great, little, vaſt, thin, ſuperior, inferior, ſhort, long, right, left*, are examples of this impropriety. When we talk of the *great* and *little* wings of the ſphenoid bone, the *great* and *little* condyles of the humerus, the *great* and *little* trochanters of the thigh, the *great* and *little* angle of the eye, and the *great* and *little* bones of the tarſus, it is impoſſible to comprehend them. The epithets of *great* bone, *grand* artery, *great* and *little* ſaphena, *great* and *little* ſympathetic, *great* and *little* meſeraic, can never be conſonant to a proper nomenclature, and ought to be aboliſhed, ſince great, little, long, ſhort, &c. are not eſſential properties, but only qualities relative to a part, and can only ſerve in the deſcription of one part."

It would occupy more room than we can poſſibly allow in our Journal to follow the author in his cenſures on all the abſurd names that are in general uſe, as well as the idle vanity of denominating parts after the diſcoverers of them; who, the author juſtly obſerves, have no occaſion for ſuch auxiliaries to render their names immortal; not to mention the poſſibility of attributing a diſcovery to one perſon, when it actually belongs to another.

The author's plan is to divide the human body into forty-ſeven different regions, all of which have particular names, and under which all the muſcles may be ranged in a natural order, and immediately found as indicated by their proper heads and claſſes; and he thinks this method will facilitate both the ſtudy and inveſtigation of anatomy, by aſſembling together what ought to be united, and ſeparating what ought to be divided, as putting each muſcle in its proper place, and circumſcribing its limits; and, although he ſays the ſame idea has been adopted by *Chauſſier*, he thinks his own an improvement upon it.

To

To illuſtrate his mode, the author has given us tables of the muſcles, arranged under diſtinct columns according to their regions, with their old and new names, ſituation, firſt attachments, fixed points, direction, laſt attachments, points of inſertion, compoſition and figure, connexion, and uſes. And at the end of the work he has added an uſeful dictionary of ſynonyms of all the muſcles of the human body from the beſt authors.

Nordiſhes Archiv. i. e. Northern Archives of Natural and Medical Science; or, Magazine for Medical and Natural Science of the North. Edited by Prof. Pfaff, of Kiel, and Dr. Scheel, of Copenhagen. Firſt Volume, firſt Number, 1799. pp. 192, 8vo. Price 16 gr. or about 2s. 6d. Copenhagen, Brummer.

The Editors of this new periodical publication propoſe to collect all contributions relating to natural and medical ſcience, by which both are, as well in general as in their ſingle parts, illuſtrated, enlarged, and corrected, and the practical application of them, for the preſervation of health, and cure of diſeaſes, really improved; but merely as far as this is owing to the induſtry and genius of northern (Swediſh and Daniſh, &c.) phyſicians, ſurgeons, and naturaliſts. We ſhall be enabled, by this uſeful publication, to get acquainted with the ſtate and progreſs of medicine in the North, of which we have had hitherto but little knowledge; and the well known talents of the Editors, and the intereſting contents of the firſt number, give us reaſon to hope, that this undertaking will anſwer their views, and ſatisfy the expectations of the learned. We find here, amongſt the *Original Papers*, 1. *New Experiments on Reſpiration and its uſe, by Prof. Abilgaard, with Remarks of Prof. Pfaff.*—Theſe experiments are directly oppoſite to the generally adopted doctrine of reſpiration, and Mr. Abilgaard attempts nothing leſs than to prove by them, that very little air, or none at all, enters into the lungs during inſpiration; againſt which Prof. Pfaff defends in his remarks the general opinion. 2. *Diſſection of a drowned horſe, by J. Kuhn, with ſome phyſiological remarks of Mr. Herholdt and Rafn.*—The object of this paper is chiefly concerning the air bladders that are found in large drowned animals. 3. *Experiments on Galvaniſm,* are contributions to Mr. Humboldt's work on the ſame ſubject. 4. *Contributions to the hiſtory of larvated and contagious intermittent fevers,* contain ſome intereſting obſervations. 5. *On Small-pox Inoculation, by Prof. Pfaff,* where he relates ſome obſervations made in inoculating a great number of children in ſeveral villages at once. 6. *Deſcription of a hooked forceps, and a perforator, with a ſheath, by Dr. Scheel.* — *Short reports and extracts from letters,* include a ſhort account of the mineral waters of Sweden, by Hedin, &c. *Literature of Northern Medicine and Natural Hiſtory,* A review of ſome diſſertations of Kiel and Copenhagen, and of ſeveral pamphlets relating a dyſentery prevailing in the neighbourhood of Kiel.

Encyclopædie, i. e. Encyclopedia of the whole Chemistry, composed by F. HILDEBRANDT, Prof. at Erlangen. First Vol. Theory. First Number, 1799. pp. 219. Price 14 gr. or about 2s. Erlangen, Walther.

WE cannot but approve the excellent plan which the author has adopted here, in proposing the elements of chemistry; and we are fully convinced that it is perfectly calculated to satisfy the requisites which the vast progress of that science entitles us to expect from a Philosophical System of Chemistry. Mr. Hildebrandt intends to include the whole chemistry in a systematical, and, as far as possible, in a mathematical order; with such a combination of theory and practice, that it may prove a very useful manual, not only for the philosophic and professional chemist, but also for a common reader, and for the use of life. With respect to this, the present work is to comprehend as well all parts of applicated as of pure chemistry, to the former of which a proper section is to be devoted. The theoretical part is to precede, to which the practical will follow, in such a manner that its rules may be derived from the theory, and the results in the different operations explained by it. The whole is written with as much conciseness as possible, and the paragraphs are therefore but aphoristic, and the quotations but few.

How far, however, the author has fulfilled this difficult and intricate task, which he has planned to execute, we shall not be able to judge till more numbers have made their appearance. In the present number we find, according to the plan, the theory of the different elements in general, of heat, light, oxygen, azote, atmospheric air, of hydrogen, and of water.

J. Van Heckeren, M. D. de Osteo genesi præternaturali, cum Tabula aenea; 4to. pp. 125. Lugduni, Batavor. 1797. Price 2 rixd. 6 gr. or about 8s.

THE Author of this learned Dissertation treats, first, of the morbific ossification which takes place in the preternatural swelling of the bones themselves, and afterwards of the ossification in the cartilage, in the membranes, and other soft parts of the body. From his inquiries and strict observations of the process which Nature follows in forming such bony substances, it appears, Naturam in osteogenesi præternaturali, habita partium, quibus contingit ratione non minus ac in aliis aberrationibus *constantes* sequi leges atque *vertum* in agendi modo ordinem semper servare.

In the accurate explanation of these laws the Author shows with much acuteness, how constant they really are, notwithstanding the appearance of irregularity with which the morbid accumulation of bony matter seems to issue; and it appears that Nature acts here, likewise, according to established organic regulations; and thus, what has been otherwise called a concrementum inorganicum, ought properly to be considered as a regular production of Nature. The Author then proceeds to discuss, copiously, upon the exuberance of callus; and having examined the late opinions of the non-existence of callus, he gives his own opinion, which he illustrates by

by a very good figure of a morbific bone. His definition of the callus luxurians is the following: "Callus luxurians vocatur, qui majora copia formatus eſt, quam ad deperditam non ſolum oſſis ſubſtantiam reſtaurandum ſed etiam ad debitam ſanitati convenientem firmitatem toti oſſi tribuendam requirebatur." In accurately ſurveying a bone, where luxuriant callus has been formed, it is apparent that plaſtic Nature never performing any thing ſuperfluous, does not produce an exuberance and deformity of callus from mere luxuriance, but that it is always occaſioned by certain external and internal cauſes, by which the formative act of Nature is diſturbed and rendered irregular; how they act and influence upon the formation of the callus is amply explained by the Author.

Critical Survey of the Lateſt Theories on difficult Dentition in Children.

(Partly extracted from the Journal of Invention, Theories, &c. in German. Numb. XXXI. 1800.)

DENTITION has been always conſidered as a matter of great importance in diſeaſes of children, and all the different and ſometimes dangerous affections incident to the infantile age at the time they are cutting their teeth, have hitherto been ſuppoſed by almoſt every practitioner to originate from the irritation of the gums by teeth breaking through; and the appellation of *dentitio difficilis* comprehends a ſeries of ſymptoms, that, however they may differ in their external appearance, are derived from the ſame ſource. A ſwelling and inflammation of the gums, with a great ſalivation and violent pain, and even ſpontaneous hydrophobia, a collection of pituitous matter in the breaſt, a laborious breathing, coughs, or continual vomition of bilious matter, vehement diarrhœas, convulſions, and other ſpaſmodic affections; fevers with acute exanthemata, a ſuppreſſion, or a ſuperabundant excretion of urine, or a preternatural ſharpneſs of it; an inflammation of the urethra and prepuce, with a kind of gonorrhœa; all theſe are mentioned by medical writers as immediate ſymptoms of teething, however increaſed and changed by other concomitant cauſes, as colds, ſmall pox, worms, &c.

Such was the prevailing opinion of dentition, and the ſymptoms that ſometimes attend it, till of late it has been made a matter of inquiry and diſcuſſion. Three of the moſt reſpectable authors and phyſicians of Germany, finding great difficulties in explaining thoſe ſymptoms according to the opinion which was generally adopted, made an attempt to eſtabliſh new theories on dentition, by which alſo the practice in thoſe affections is greatly influenced. Although they agree, that the mere irritation of the gingiva cannot be allowed to be the immediate cauſe of thoſe ſymptoms, yet they differ very much in the explanation and theory they reſpectively give of their nature and origin.

It is certainly undeniable that the idea of difficult dentition has been too far extended; but whether, on the other ſide, it ought to be conſidered of no immediate influence at all, is ſtill a matter of diſpute, as will appear from the obſervations annexed. It is proper

now,

now, however, to proceed to give a concife account of each theory; of which we fhall firft relate,

I. *Dr. Hecker's Theory*, (contained in his Magazine for Pathological Anatomy and Phyfiology. Numb. I.)

The common opinion of the act of teething in children is fubject to fome difficulties, as it cannot be well explained, how it is poffible a part, as the gums, not poffeffed of much fenfibility and irritability, only by being irritated from the teeth cutting through, fhould produce fuch violent fymptoms, as are obferved fometimes during the period of firft dentition. Another caufe ought, therefore, to be fought for, that will prove more fatisfactory in explaining, and more ufeful in directing a proper practice and cure of thofe fymptoms, to which fo many children fall a facrifice.

It is a general law founded upon facts and experience, that as foon as the organs of fecretion are difeafed or affected in a morbid manner, they fecern fuch humours as are alfo morbid and preternatural. Thus, an irritation of the liver will produce a fharp and corrupted gall; paffions often render the milk venomous; and the mildeft faliva of an irritated and angry animal becomes very malignant and poifonous. Now, in a child that is cutting teeth, many circumftances take place, which are fufficient to turn the faliva into a very powerful, malignant, and even deadly poifon. We obferve a great collection of faliva and an irritation in the mouth of a teething child; it fuffers a great deal of pain; reftlefs and fleeplefs, it is continually crying, irritated, and in a degree of paffion. This, already, may lead us to conjecture, that the faliva acquires fuch a malignity as to be able to caufe many and very dangerous fymptoms of difficult dentition.

It will, however, be ftill further proved by the following arguments: That *a corruption and acrimony of the faliva, almoft fimilar to that in the canine madnefs, is the principal caufe from which all the moft dangerous fymptoms of dentition are to be derived.*

1. Many fymptoms of dentition admit of a more natural and eafier explanation from this faliva than from the irritation only, viz. the coughs, laborious breathing, the collection of pituitous matter in the breaft, fuffocation, &c.; fwallowing it caufes vomition and diarrhœa. When it poffeffes a high degree of acrimony, or when its excretion is by any means obftructed, it produces infenfible and irritable conftitutions, hydrophobia, locked jaw, epileptic fits, &c. The acrimony being imparted to the humours, gives rife to fevers and exanthemata. The inflammatory and gonorrhoic affections of the genitals are owing to acrid faliva having thrown itfelf upon the urinary fyftem; a complication of dyfentery and dentition is confequently very dangerous, becaufe the bowels are thus likely to be doubly affected.

2. Dentition has been obferved to be flight and eafy whenever the falivation was confiderable, or falival humours evacuated by other emunctories of the body.

3. There is a great fimilarity between the fymptoms of difficult dentition

dentition and thoſe of real hydrophobia, apparent from the impediment in ſwallowing, and other ſpaſmodic affections.

4. Several children, who died of difficult dentition, had bloody ſtools, attended with a teneſmus, as in dyſentery. Upon diſſecting the body, eroſions and inflammations were found in the throat, ſtomach, and inteſtines, which were moſt probably cauſed by the acrid ſaliva; ſomething ſimilar has been noticed in the ſtomach of perſons who have died of hydrophobia.

5. The cure conſiſts in diminiſhing the irritation in the mouth, in removing the inflammation of the gums, of the ſalival glands, and the tonſils. To evacuate the ſharp ſaliva, and to render it leſs noxious, are indications to which we are led by Nature itſelf. The moſt difficult dentition becomes leſs dangerous when there is much ſalivation, vomition, and moderate diarrhœa.

The principal remedy is *the fixed cauſtic alkali*, or *the volatile alkali*, which has been already recommended by Fred. Hoffmann. When this is given early enough, before the nervous ſyſtem is too much affected, or before too vehement ſpaſmodic or even apopletic ſymptoms have ariſen, it certainly is able to ſave the life of many children. It moreover, in general, is a very uſeful remedy, whenever the organs for the ſecretion of lymphatic humours being irritated and inflamed, ſecern morbific fluidities; for inſtance, in gonorrhœa, in ſome caſes of dyſentery, catarrhous inflammations of the throat and breaſt, hydrophobia, &c. Bliſters applied behind the ears are of great ſervice. *The inciſion of the gums* can only ſerve to mitigate the violent inflammation, but does by no means promote the cutting of the teeth. *Opium* ſhould be avoided, or uſed at leaſt with great caution, as apoplectical fits, of which many children die in dentition, are frequently brought on by it. *Extractum hyoſciami* may be given inſtead of it; *warm baths* have likewiſe great effect in removing the ſpaſms and pains, and in promoting ſalutary excretions. *Emetics* and *cathartics* are alſo ſometimes very uſeful.

II. *Dr. Brandis's Theory.*

The intelligent Dr. Brandis, of Brunſwick, known by ſeveral excellent publications, and Tranſlator of Darwin's Zoonomia, advances his opinion about the nature and origin of the dangerous ſymptoms ſometimes obſervable at the time of firſt dentition, in his book *on Metaſtases*, 1798, in German. Although he agrees with Armſtrong and Hecker, that they are not to be derived only from the irritation of the nerves of the teeth, yet he rejects their theories, and rather thinks, that *a ſuppreſſion of ſalival ſecretion* has the principal ſhare in producing thoſe ſymptoms. The ſecretion of ſaliva is much increaſed by the topical irritation in the mouth, and becomes very neceſſary to the conſtitution of the child. When the topical irritation is too vehement, in a difficult dentition, it extends to the ſalival glands, and cauſes a ſuppreſſion of the ſecretion of ſaliva. It may be obſerved, therefore, that the mouth and lips become dry and cold, in bad caſes; meanwhile, there is a great

degree

degree of febrile heat in other parts of the body, which is a diagnoſtic ſign of this dangerous diſeaſe.

When the ſuppreſſed action of the ſalival glands is replaced by that of the pancreas, a diarrhœa comes on, which, as it generally continues as long as the difficult dentition is accompanied by thoſe ſymptoms, contributes very much to diminiſh the violence of them, and of the concomitant fever. But, on the contrary, when this does not take place, nervous ſymptoms, convulſions, and a nervous fever ariſe, which having a great ſimilarity with Hydrocephalus Internus, is very well deſcribed by Armſtrong under the name of hectic fever. That theſe nervous ſymptoms cannot be aſcribed to the nervous irritation ariſing from the teeth cutting through, may be farther proved by the following conſiderations:

1. Nervous ſymptoms, ariſing from a re-action of the ſenſorium cauſed by the pain, are never removed by any material excretion, as this manifeſtly happens in difficult dentition by ſalivation and a diarrhœa of watery humours.

2. All anodynes and antiſpaſmodic remedies, opiates particularly, which in convulſions procceding from pain, prove ſo very efficacious, are without any avail here, of which circumſtance Dr. B. had frequent experience.

3. The inciſion of the gums ought to remove the cauſes of the diſeaſe at once, according to the theory generally believed; but in four caſes, where he ſaw it uſed, it was not only of no immediate utility, but in ſome inſtances, by additional irritation, it increaſed the nervous ſymptoms. A healthy child, fifteen months old, having ſuffered a ſlight degree of cold, was ſuddenly ſeized with all the ſymptoms of difficult dentition. Emetics, mercurial purgatives, fomentations of the mouth, &c. were applied in vain. It lay ſenſeleſs, with its mouth open, and cold; the pulſe was hardly perceptible, and vehement convulſions came on from time to time. The gums were cut in on both ſides to the teeth themſelves, after which it ſeemingly recovered a little; but ſoon after, the mouth and the lips remaining dry, pale, and the cheeks cold, the fever and convulſions returned; and though the operation was repeated, and ointments rubbed in, outſide and inſide, it died the next day. The gums were found divided by the operation, and the teeth free and viſible, but no inflammation could be traced on the margin of the inciſed gums. The operation ſhould have certainly ſaved the child, if the diſeaſe had been dependent from the cutting of the teeth, and a ſalivation would have had that effect.

In examining thoſe theories, the arguments ſhould firſt be conſidered, by which they have attempted to prove that the ſymptoms derived from difficult dentition are not owing to the irritation of the gums, on account of their being leſs ſenſible, and not provided with nerves, as to be able to cauſe thoſe ſymptoms; that the inciſion of the gums is of no utility, and, conſequently, that the nature of the ſymptoms themſelves is by no means correſpondent with the quality of the cauſe they are ſuppoſed to be occaſioned by. Although the theories juſt propoſed are partly grounded upon thoſe

conſiderations,

considerations, yet it may be proper to defer reviewing them till we relate Dr. Wichmann's Theory, as it is particularly urged by that gentleman.

Both Theories are certainly very ingenious and plausible, several doubts, however, may be raised against them, to which they seem to be exposed. In the first place, Dr. Brandis objects to Dr. Hecker's opinion, that, as the symptoms of difficult dentition do not arise before the salivation is entirely suppressed, and consequently before the secretion of any saliva is stopped, they cannot owe their origin to its acrimony, of which quality he never could perceive any signs in a teething child. But should not the existence and action of such an acrid humour be proved by the erosions and inflammations that have been found in the throat, stomach, and intestines of children dying in a high degree of difficult dentition? However, even when this is allowed, it may be suggested, that it would be more proper, and agree better with our improved knowledge of animal œconomy, to derive primarily the morbific secretion of the saliva, and the symptoms of difficult dentition, from the same proximate cause which consists in the nervous irritation, and to consider both as the congenial effect of it, and not the morbific saliva as the original cause of those symptoms. It is moreover obvious to remark, in general, that the idea of an acrimony wandering through the body, and causing diseases, is by no means evident, but built upon hypothetical principles.

The opinion of Dr. Brandis is founded upon his theory of metastases, which he has proposed in the work above mentioned. According to this, the idea of a metastasis ought to be thus conceived: "When certain actions in any organ, or system of organs, cease, or are by any means diminished, they must be replaced by another action in another organ or system of organs of the body, dependent from the former action. The first may be called the *original*; the second, the *vicegerent action*." In dentition, now, the secretion of saliva is the original action of the salival system, caused by the topical irritation in the mouth, which in a teething child is become necessary to its constitution. If that action happens to be stopped, a vicegerent action is excited in another organ; and if this takes place in the nervous system, all those dangerous symptoms appear which are to be attributed to difficult dentition. It is, however, not requisite, and would lead us too far, to enter into the particulars of this ingenious theory; it may suffice to observe, that the suppression of salival secretion might be more naturally considered as the effect of nervous irritation, which by its violence, at the same time produces the other symptoms of difficult dentition. This explanation is suitable to a known law of the animal œconomy, according to which, secretions are increased by a moderate degree of irritation, and suppressed whenever it becomes too vehement. When salivation, therefore, is not suppressed, but rather increased, and the symptoms without danger, the irritation of the nervous system is moderate, which being relatively vehement, must be looked upon as the common cause of both, the

the ſuppreſſion of ſaliva as well as of the violence of the ſymptoms. Salivation, however, may be of ſome ſervice in dentition, by rendering the gums tender, and more eaſily to be cut through.

Anodynes and narcotics, whoſe efficacy is denied here by Dr. B. have generally been found to be very uſeful by other eminent practitioners; and even Dr. Hecker recommends the Extractum Hyoſciami, though he ventures not to give opiates, which, however, in ſome inſtances, may prove likewiſe very uſeful.

[To be continued.]

Almanach oder Taſchenbuch; i. e. *Almanack or Pocket-Book, for Chemiſts and Apothecaries, for the Year* 1800. Weimar. 8vo. Price 16 gr. or about 2s. 6d.

THE Editor of this uſeful publication, which for many years has maintained its credit with the public, is Profeſſor Göttling, of Jena, whoſe great merits in chemiſtry are well known, and juſtly reſpected. It conſiſts of a common Almanack, where, inſtead of the ſaints, the names of celebrated chemiſts are inſerted; to which is added an account of thoſe pharmaceutical operations that are to be performed in each month. The preſent volume gives a continuation of the reviſal of operations and experiments begun in the Almanack of laſt year, for the purpoſe of accommodating the foregoing volumes to the preſent ſtate of chemiſtry; ſome new experiments of the author are likewiſe ſubjoined. The preſent Almanack reviews thoſe of 1782—85. The whole is concluded with accurate reviews of new chemical and pharmaceutical publications.

MEDICAL AND PHYSICAL INTELLIGENCE.

Dr. Knebel's Method of Curing the Ague.—This method is related in his Materials for Medical Science, Vol. I. Part II. and is principally founded on Brunonian principles, or rather on the ſyſtem of medicine, named in German, the Syſtem or Theory of Incitation; (Erregung's Theorie) which, though built upon Brown's ſyſtem, differs from it in ſome points. According to this theory, opium is the chief remedy in intermitting fevers; but Dr. Knebel's method of giving it, is ſo peculiar, that we think proper to mention it. He only adminiſters opium to check the paroxyſm; during the intermiſſion, he gives other excitant medicines, as liquor anodyn. min. Hoffm. eſſence or tincture of valerian, cinamon, &c. with a full diet of meat, wine, &c. In caſes where a kind of ſthenic ſtate is brought on by the uſe of fixed excitantia, bark, &c. opium and other excitants muſt be given with caution, or changed for a few days with gentle ſalts, tartarus tartariſatus, tartar emetic in ſmall doſes, bitters, elixir acid, Haller, &c. Opium, as the univerſal medicine in the paroxyſms, is given in a doſe from two to four grains, which are divided into three parts; the firſt of which is to be taken two hours and a half before the fever comes on, the ſecond about an hour after the firſt, and the laſt not quite half an hour before the paroxyſm commences. The powder of opium is preferable to any other preparation of it; during the paroxyſm, he allows his patients wine and water, or beer; but if the heat is too great, water only. Should opium cauſe too great a ſtupifaction, it may be taken in coffee. When the paroxyſms are repreſſed, it is, however, adviſable to continue the opium for five or ſix times in the ſame manner.

Profeſſor Blumenbach has preſented to the Royal Society at Gottingen, ſome phyſiological remarks on a curious animal, which has been lately diſcovered in New South Wales, and brought to England, from whence a ſpecimen was ſent him by Sir Joſeph Banks. This animal, deſcribed already by Dr. Shaw, under the name of *Platypus*, has the ſhape of a ſmall otter, and the beak of a duck. It may certainly be conſidered as an argument in ſupport of the ſcale of nature, if this was an object ſo much deſerving attention as it is thought by ſome. The beak of this animal has alſo a great likeneſs in its internal ſtructure with that of a duck, it being likewiſe provided with a large bundle of nerves from the fifth pair, for the purpoſe of increaſing the ſenſe of feeling ſo neceſſary to them in the ſearch of their nouriſhment. Nevertheleſs, it differs in an other thing from a bird's beak by having intermaxillar bones, (oſſa

 intermaxillaria)

intermaxillaria) a curious inſtance that Nature follows in the formation of certain animals ſome certain laws, even when this is in other reſpects very anomalous. Dr. Blumenbach calls this animal Ornithorhynchus Paradoxus. (*Goetting Gelehrt Anzeigen*, 1800, No. 62.)

Cit. Sedillot the younger, recommends the acetous ether as a gentle anodyne, internally taken; externally applied, it is a powerful diſſolvent without augmenting an inflammation. It produces a gentle warmth on the ſkin, and a ſalutary perſpiration, and is uſed with effect in rheumatic paroxyſm and gout. He obtains this ether by diſtilling equal parts of vinegar and alkohol, and by clearing it from the ſuperfluous acid by the carbonate of potaſs. — (*Hufeland's Neweſt Annals of his French Medicine.*)

Profeſſor Tromſdorf at Erfurt, has diſcovered a new earth in a foſſil, commonly called the Saxon beryll, which is found in the mines of the electorate of Saxony. This earth poſſeſſes the following properties. It is of a white colour, and not ſoluble in water; in a freſh ſtate, moiſtened with water, it acquires a degree of expanſibility; and in fire it becomes ſo hard as to ſcratch glaſs. It is diſſolved with eaſe in acids, and compoſes different ſalts with them. Fixed and volatile alkalies have no effect upon it, neither in the humid nor dry way. It has the moſt relation with oxalic acids. The Profeſſor calls this new earth Aguſt-Earth, on account of its having no taſte in all the combinations with acids, by which it materially differs from the glucine. A farther account of it, and likewiſe a deſcription of the foſſil, is to be given in a new Number of the Journal for Pharmacy. (*Fenaer Literture Zeitung.*)

Profeſſor Gmelin, at Gottingen, has alſo examined the beryll from Siberia, and nearly found the ſame things as Vauquelin, an account of which will be publiſhed in a ſhort time.

The Coccinella Septempunctata has been recommended by a German dentiſt, as a very ſure and certain remedy againſt toothach. It is ſqueezed and rubbed between the thumb and forefinger till the points of the fingers become warm. The gums of the affected tooth, and the tooth itſelf, are now beſmeared with it, on which the pain immediately ceaſes. It was but in few caſes neceſſary to apply it a ſecond time. To preſerve the ſanative power of this inſect, it may be kept in melted wax, ſuet, or in ſugar.

The Ruſſian Count Mouſſin Pouſhkin, at Peterſburgh, has diſcovered a new method of forging Platina, totally different from any known before. He is willing to communicate his diſcovery to any artiſt, or ſociety, who will furniſh him with 150lb. of that metal; and he hopes to make it, by his method, an object of trade and manufacture. *Gilbert's Physical Journal*, 1800.

Profeſſor

Profeſſor Hamilton, of Erfurt, attempted to ſhow, in a paper read before the Society of Sciences at Erfurt, on the nature of electric matter, that this conſiſts of light, fire, and phoſphoric acid.—*Ibid.*

The ingenious Mr. Humboldt has made ſeveral intereſting experiments, to determine the quantity of carbonic acid, or fixed air, contained in atmoſpheric air, which was before commonly calculated to be 0,06, and by Mr. Girtanner only 6,01; it was not, however, ſatisfactorily aſcertained. After numerous experiments, Mr. Humboldt found the middle proportion for the temperate zone to be 0,015; the maximum he found was 0,018, at 73° hygrom. Sauſſure 18° 5' Reaumur; the minimum 0,05, at 17° Reaumur. Mons. de Sauſſure obſerved, even on the ſummit of Mont Blanc, carbonic acid, which probably had been evolved from ſome lichens containing carbon, as Lichen ſulphureus and rupeſtris. The quantity of carbonic acid in the air, which Citizen Garnerin brought down with him from a height of 650 toiſes, was equal to that of the air of Paris. According to theſe experiments, carbonic acid ſeems not only to be an adventitious particle of the atmoſphere, but to be every where diffuſed in it; and it is not unlikely we may find hydrogen gas and azote gas combined with it. Carbonic acid could not be traced in rain water. In ſummer, the atmoſphere is found to contain a greater quantity of carbonic acid than at any other time. The proximate cauſes of its gradual increaſe and diminution has not yet been diſcovered. *Ibid.* 1799.

The experiments of the ſame gentleman on the illumination of rotten wood, are as intereſting as curious, Carbonic gas, deprived of oxygen gas by means of phoſphor, extinguiſhes the phoſphoric light of the wood; ſome atmoſpheric air being admitted, it becomes again viſible. It does not ſhine ſtronger in oxygen gas than in common air; the abſorption of it is not conſiderable, though at laſt ſome carbonic acid is perceived. In pure azotic and hydrogen gas, the wood is immediately extinguiſhed; but as ſoon as atmoſpheric air is admitted, the luſtre is reſtored. All theſe airs were purified by phoſphor; but to ſhow that the extinction was by no means owing to the evaporated phoſphoric acid, he put the wood into atmoſpheric air impregnated with phoſphoric acid, in which it ſhone with equal ſtrength. The illumination was extinguiſhed by water, or air heated to the degree from 50 to 32° Reaumur. In cold water, however, it continues to ſhine a long time. It diſappears in alkaline ſolutions; in alkohol in 6 minutes, and in all acids in 9 or 12 minutes. But we have reaſon to ſuppoſe that Mr. Humboldt did not uſe for his experiments concentrated ſulphuric acid, becauſe this acts upon ſhining wood with the utmoſt rapidity, and blackens it, and a hydro-carbon with a great deal of hydrogen is produced. Mr. Humboldt farther obſerves, that he never could perceive the ſubterraneous wood in the mines ſhining, but only that which is expoſed to light. But this does not agree with ſome other obſervations,

observations, according to which, wood continually exposed to light never emits any illumination. *Ibid. Vol. iii. No.* 1.

Prince Dimitri Gallitzin has made several experiments on the germination of seeds of garden cresses, which he sowed in different gases of equal temperature; and the results of them are the following: 1. In gas oxygen and azote, he found the seeds shoot as well as in atmospherical air. 2. Gas hydrogen and carbonic acid, both prepared out of different substances in different ways, stopt the germinating of the seeds without destroying them. They began to swell a little, but being during eight days left in the gas, no germ evolved itself; meanwhile, the seed in the other airs had already emitted four leaves; when atmospheric air was admitted, those seeds began to produce two leaves in forty-eight hours. 3. Nitrous gas entirely destroyed the seeds, by blackening and rendering them incapable of germinating in other airs, which is probably owing to the concentrated nitrous acid contained therein. To try whether the sprouting of potatoes in winter could be prevented by laying them into carbonic gas, he put sixty potatoes under a bell glass filled with carbonic acid, the bottom of which he immersed in quicksilver, to prevent the admission of atmospheric air. The potatoes indeed, though left there for six months, did not shoot out, but were found in a state quite rotten. (*Vid. Gilbert's Physical Journal.* 1800. *4th Vol. No. IV.*)

Professor Gmelin, of Göttingen, relates several experiments with the *tellurium*, which he obtained out of an ore from Transylvania, by means of aqua regia. These experiments do not quite agree with those of Klaproth, on account of the metal which Gmelin analysed being less pure. Its specifick weight was only 4,333, and it melted as easily as lead; it is very volatile, and evaporates without the least arsenical smell, and in a stronger heat with a blue flame. Nitric acid dissolves it with some difficulty, but aqua regia with ease, and forms a yellow solution with it. It is easily soluble in lixivium, and the solution in aqua regia is precipitated with a green colour by lixivium sanguinis.

In explaining the disappearance of emphysematous humours, it has been the general opinion, that the absorbent vessels had the power of resorbing and receiving air as such, or in its aëriform state. To prove the truth of this, Dr. Thilow of Erfurt, made the following experiments: He thrust a trocar into the belly of a healthy dog, and having brought through the opening a quantity of fixed air by means of a syringe, he shut it immediately with a thick plaster: the dog's belly became very much inflated, but in one hour and a half the swelling was entirely gone and the dog well again. The same experiment was repeated with a cat: two hours after she was killed, and in opening her, whole tracts of the absorbent system, in different parts of the body, were found full of air, which was easily distinguishable between the lymph. Dr.

Thilow

Thilow was now convinced of the capacity of the abſorbent ſyſtem to receive the air exhaled into the cavities of the body. Perſons, therefore, whoſe digeſtive powers are in perfect and ſound ſtate, are never or very little ſubject to flatulencies, notwithſtanding they have eat victuals containing a great deal of air, which can only be accounted for by the air being received into the abſorbent ſyſtem, mixed with the blood, and exhaled through the ſkin. (*Hufeland's Journal, Vol.* ix. *No.* 2.)

Dr. Plies relates two inſtances of intermmitting fevers, where flores arnicae, in combination with bark, proved very ſucceſsful, though bark by itſelf, opiates, quaſſia, flores ſalis ammoniaci martiales, were given before without avail. The uſe of arnica in agues has been recommended a long time ago by Collin, Stoll, (Ratio Medendi, Vol. III.) Murray (Apparatus Medicamen, Vol. I. 242, ed Althoff) as a very powerful remedy, but it became of late almoſt out of uſe. Dr. Plies is of opinion, that it may be given with great ſucceſs in ſuch intermittent fevers as have more of the chronic character, where the apyrexies are longer, the froſt more laſting, and the heat leſs; and which are particularly obſervable in weak conſtitutions, and characteriſed by their long duration without the exiſtence of a material cauſe, but merely from an impreſſio nervoſa. (*Ibid.*)

Dr. Cappel, of Göttingen, recommends the mineral waters of Driburg in Weſtphalia, which are partly ſaline, partly martial, as the beſt and ſureſt preſervative and remedy againſt ſea ſcurvy. He is going to explain this farther in a pamphlet, which will be publiſhed in a ſhort time.

Mr. Lucas, apothecary at Erfurt, has found a ſure and ſimple method of making foul and putrid water again potable, and likewiſe of preſerving water for a long time from being corrupted. This diſcovery, which is particularly intereſting to ſeamen, he propoſes to publiſh for a certain douceur, by way of ſubſcription, for which he may be applied to at Erfurt.

The well known Dr. Hahnemann, now reſident at Hamburgh, pretends to have diſcovered a ſpecific remedy, which acts as a very certain preſervative againſt the ſcarlet fever. This diſcovery he is willing to make known to the publick, if he ſhould find three hundred ſubſcribers, of whom each is to pay him a louis-d'or before hand. Upon this every one of them gets a receipt, and along with it a ſmall powder, of which the remedy conſiſts, to try it before its being publiſhed, when an opportunity ſhould offer. This powder is diſſolved in two hundred and forty drops of ſpiritus vini diluted with five parts water; the turbid ſolution which is thus obtained, is a very ſtrong ſolution of the remedy. Of this, one drop is added to one hundred drops of diluted ſpiritus vini, ſhaking it for ſome minutes, which forms the middle ſolution; but this is

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ſtill too ſtrong to be given. One drop therefore of this, is again dropped into the ſaid quantity of ſpiritus vini diluted, and the mixture ſhook for ſome minutes. This is the preſervative which is given to thoſe who are not yet infected, and will certainly ſecure them from the contagion. The doſe for a child of one year old is two drops; for one of two years, three or four drops; from four to ſix years, ſeven or eight drops; for nine years, fourteen to ſixteen drops, and then with every year two drops more; however, the doſe muſt not exceed forty drops for people from twenty to thirty years old. It is repeated every 72 hours during the time the epidemic is reigning, and continued for ſix weeks after it.

A very curious inſtance of a nearly two years abſtinence from all food and drink, is related in two numbers of Hufeland's Practical Journal, Vol. VIII. and IX. No. 2; and a pamphlet has ſince been publiſhed reſpecting this fact, by Dr. Schmidtmann of Melle, in the Biſhoprick of Oſnabruck.

A country girl, ſixteen years old, in a village near Oſnabruck, had enjoyed a good ſtate of health during her childhood; but at about ten years of age, ſhe was ſeized with epileptic fits, againſt which, a number of remedies were employed in vain. Since that time ſhe was moſtly confined to her bed, particularly in Winter, but in Summer ſhe found herſelf a little better. From February 1798, her excretions by ſtool and urine began to ceaſe, though ſhe took now and then a little nouriſhment. But from the beginning of April of the ſame year, ſhe abſtained entirely from all food and drink, falling into an uninterrupted ſlumber almoſt ſenſeleſs, from which ſhe only awoke from time to time for a few hours. Her ſenſibility was during this time ſo great, that the ſlighteſt touch on any part of the body, brought on partial convulſive motions. In this ſtate ſhe had continued for nearly ten months, when Dr. Schmidtmann ſaw her firſt in March 1799. Though ſhe had not taken the leaſt nouriſhment during all this time, Dr. S. found her, to his utmoſt aſtoniſhment, freſh and blooming. For the laſt two months only, the intervals of ſleep began to be longer; her ſenſes of ſight and hearing were in perfect order; but her feeling ſhe ſeemed to have quite loſt, as ſhe could ſuffer pinching of the arms and legs without pain; her gums bled frequently, and the pulſe was ſcarcely perceptible in the arms, but beat ſtrong and full in the carotids, about 120 in a minute. Dr. S. attempted to make her drink a little milk, but ſhe proteſted ſhe could not ſwallow it. The alvine and urinary excretions had quite ceaſed.

Although there could hardly be a ſuſpicion of any kind of impoſition, the parents being honeſt people; yet, to remove all doubt, ſix ſworn men were appointed from different places in the neighbourhood to watch her day and night, and inſtructions given to them accordingly. This being continued for a fortnight, the men were diſmiſſed, having given evidence upon oath, that the patient had never taken any food or drink whatever during that time, nor had any excretion by ſtool or urine. She had been once

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very ill and nearly dying, seized with convulsions, feverish, and sometimes in a great sweat, which had the extraordinary property of turning water black. When Dr. S. saw her again, he found her quite recovered, not in the least emaciated, but rather looking lustier: her gums, however, still frequently bled, and her feeling was not yet returned; but her memory was not impaired, and she amused herself sometimes with reading and writing. No alvine and urinary excretion had taken place. Sometimes she was attacked by a sudden weakness, particularly after having bled from the mouth. During last severe winter, she could not bear the heat of the stove, because she felt then faint and oppressed,

Dr. Schmidtmann then enters into an enquiry, by what means the patient, in this case, was nourished and maintained in that state in which she was found; and having discussed the matter at large, he is of opinion that she drew, by resorption, such elementary particles from the atmosphere, as were sufficient for the nutrition of the body, and that the excretions were likewise replaced by the skin.

However incredible and miraculous this fact may seem, yet we find similar instances recorded by several authors, viz. by *Haller*, in his *Elementa Physiologiae, Tom. VI. Sect. II.* §. 6. *Conf. Memoires de l'Academie de Sciences de Toulouse, T. I.* 1783; and in *Richter's Library devoted to Surgery*, (in German) *Vol. XII. p.* 184. *Swieten Comment. in Boerhaav. Aph. T. III. p.* 508. *Histoire de l'Acad. Royale de Sciences, l'an* 1769; and in *Hufeland's Art of Prolonging Life, first edition, p.* 67. *Halpart van der Wiel Observat. rar. Centur. Poster.* In the London Magazine for Aug. 1769, there is likewise an account of a young woman, twenty-four years of age, who had fasted for two years, and whose excretions were also entirely suppressed.

A report has been lately spread in one of the newspapers, that the physicians of Osnabruck have, by an accurate and indefatigable inquisition, succeeded at last, in discovering the whole fact to be an imposture of the most subtle and intricate nature, for the sake of exciting pity, and getting presents from people, who came in great numbers from all parts of the neighbourhood to see this wonderful girl. It is said, that an account of the whole proceeding will be shortly published, which must certainly be very interesting; and we shall not omit to communicate it, after it has been confirmed.

Dr. Hildenbrand of Lemberg, in Gallizia, mentions, in Hufeland's Practical Journal, Vol. VII. No. 4. two remedies, which the common people, principally in the eastern parts of Gallizia, make general use of, to prevent and cure hydrophobia. One consists of a decoction of the wood of Taxus baccata Lin. and the other of a decoction of Lycopodium clavatum Lin. either of which may be used externally by washing the wound with it, or by giving it internally in large doses. With the latter, Dr. Hildenbrand himself has made some trials, as a prophylactic remedy; and it seemed to be efficacious, as no person who took it, was seized with

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the canine madneſs; but he treated the wounds at the ſame time according to Le Roux's method, with butyrum antimonii. It is, however, curious to obſerve, that hydrophobia very ſeldom occurs in this country, though mad wolves frequently come from the neighbouring Carpatic mountains, and attack men and beaſts: the common uſe of thoſe remedies probably prevents the conſequences.

Dr. Jördens recommends the following ointment as a very excellent remedy againſt chronic ophthalmies of the humid kind. ℞. *Butyr. insuls. unc. jv. mercur. praecip. rubr. dr. iſ. intime mistis adde aceti lithargyr. unc. ſs. tere donec omnis humiditas diſpareat.* Of this unguent, about as much as the ſize of a ſmall pea is applied to the internal corner of the eyes every night before going to bed, and the next morning it is waſhed away with cold water: in more obſtinate caſes it may be uſed once or twice a day beſides. The ſpecies of opthalmy, where it is applicable, ſeems principally to originate from a debility, either partial of the eyes themſelves, or general in the nerves, by which an affluence of acrid humours is produced. The ointment has, therefore, been found uſeful in ſuch ophthalmies as ariſe from too great and continual uſe of the eyes by lucubration, &c. in hereditary ophthalmies, and thoſe of children during the time of teething. Venereal opthalmies of this kind were alſo cured by it. (*Arneman's Magazine for Surgery, Vol. II. No. 2.*

VACCINE INOCULATION.

From the Journal de Paris, of Prarial 23, (*June* 12, 1800.)

An account has been given, that on the 18th inſtant, thirty children were inoculated (in this city) with the Cow-pox, the matter being ſent from England; the proceſs according to the method recommended. Symptoms of infection appeared upon nine of the number, with the proper characters, and at the time ſpecified by Dr. Pearſon and other members of the London Committee. It is remarkable, that the Engliſh phyſicians, in their letter to the Committee of Paris, expreſs themſelves happy, conſidering the interval between taking the matter and its application, if the inoculation ſhould take effect upon one patient out of twenty;—but, on the contrary, nine out of thirty have been properly inoculated.

Upon the 19th, 20th, and 21ſt of the ſame month, eighteen children, upon whom the firſt inciſion had been ineffectual, were inoculated afreſh with the matter taken from thoſe upon whom it had ſucceeded. The Committee continues its experiments, and promiſes to give the Public a faithful detail of its proceedings.

Signed, on behalf of the Committee, THOUROT.

Mr. F. J. Gall, at Vienna, has finiſhed a moſt elaborate work on the Exerciſe of the Brain, and on the poſſibility of recogniſing the ſeveral Faculties and Propenſities from the Conſtruction and Form of the Head and Skull. Mr. Geiſweiler, of Parliament Street, has in his poſſeſſion a part of the manuſcript, and ſeveral drawings, finiſhed in the moſt correct and elegant ſtyle, deſerving the attention of the curious. The Author intends to publiſh the work at the ſame time both in England and Germany.

Dr.

Dr. Beddoes has in the press a Collection of Observations on the external and internal Use of Nitric Acid in Siphylis. He had no intention of publishing another separate work on this subject, but so many new and interesting facts have been transmitted to him, that he very gladly complies with the desire of his correspondents in sending them to the press.

Dr. Saunders, physician to Guy's Hospital, will publish, in a few weeks, a Treatise on the Chemical History and Medical Powers of some of the most celebrated Mineral Waters, together with some Observations on the Cold and Warm Bath, &c.

Mr. Davy, Superintendant of the Medical Pneumatic Institution, is on the point of publishing a work, containing a detail of his numerous experiments on Gases and Respiration, under the title of *Researches Chemical and Philosophical chiefly concerning Nitrous Oxide, or Dephlogisticated Nitrous Gas and its Respiration.*

Mr. Stancliffe, of Caius College, Cambridge, F. L. S. and Lecturer of Chemistry at the Middlesex Hospital, intends to read a Course of Lectures on Chemistry at the Leverian Museum during the ensuing month. The lectures will commence on Wednesday, the second of July, at eight o'clock in the evening; and will be continued on every succeeding Monday and Friday, at the same hour, till the course is finished. The system to be pursued in these lectures will be that which is adopted by the professors in our universities, and by modern chemists; and the plan embraces the history, philosophy, and particular applications of the science, both to the arts and agriculture.

Dr. Dennison and Dr. Squire will begin, early in July, a Summer Course of Lectures on the Theory and Practice of Midwifery, and the Diseases of Women and Children. Notice of the day will be advertised in the public papers.

On the 17th of May died, at Gottingen, the celebrated Dr. Girtanner, author of many publications in Chemistry, Medicine, Natural History, and Politics. His last work was a representation of Darwin's System of Medicine. He was a native of Swisserland, but had been resident at Gottingen many years.

We are sorry to have it to state to our readers, that on Friday morning, the 27th of June, died (in consequence of an apoplectic fit) the celebrated Mr. Cruikshank, to whom the world is so much indebted for many valuable discoveries in Anatomy and Physiology, and who has so long filled the Teacher's chair in the Theatre of Anatomy, in Great Windmill Street, with such respectability. We are however glad, in having authority to say, that the Lectures in that school will be continued by Mr. Wilson, whose abilities have been long known, and who, as Colleague with Mr. Cruikshank, delivered the greatest part of the Lectures last season, with equal credit to himself and advantage to the public.

NEW MEDICAL PUBLICATIONS IN JUNE.

The Edinburgh Practice of Physic and Surgery, preceded by an Abstract of the Theory of Medicine, and the Nosology of Dr. Cullen, and including upwards of 500 authentic Formulæ from the Books of the London Hospitals, and from the Lectures and Writings of the most eminent public Teachers; with Plates, 8vo. 14s. boards. Kearsley.

Observations on Mr. Simmons's Detection, &c. With a Defence of the Cesarean Operation, an Examination of Dr. Osborn's Opinions relative to Embryulcia, and an Account of the Method of Delivering by Embryotomy; by JOHN HULL, M.D. 8vo. 9s. boards. Bickerstaff.

Observations on the Gout and Rheumatism; to which are annexed Phænomena Physiologica, issuing in the Cure of those Diseases; by William Peter Whyte; 2s. 6d. boards. Rivingtons.

Memorials on the Medical Department of Naval Service, transmitted to the Lords of the Admiralty; to which is annexed, an Address to Parliament on the Expediency of amending the Laws relative to the Exportation of Corn; by WILLIAM RENWICK, Surgeon in the Royal Navy, 1s. Longman.

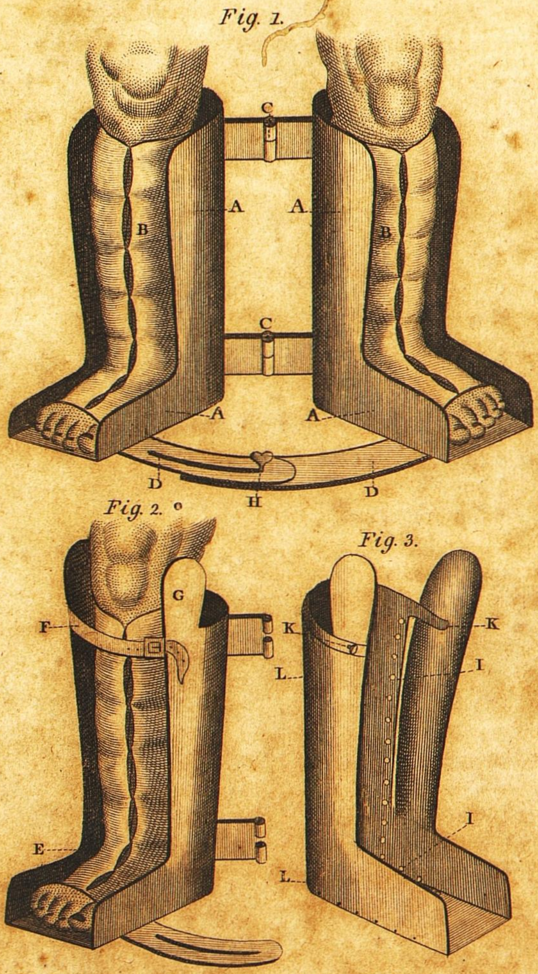
To CORRESPONDENTS.

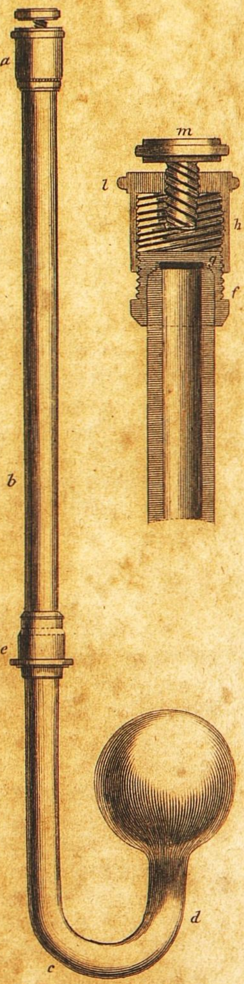
We are much obliged to our Correspondent at Newcastle, for the zeal he has discovered in the promotion of an important improvement in the practice of medicine; but we beg leave to assure him, that such paragraphs as those he has read in the Newcastle Advertiser, can never "prevent the adoption of the Vaccine Inoculation" in any part of the kingdom, while it continues to be supported and encouraged by the most respectable practitioners. A paragraph or letter, very similar to the one he sent us a copy of, appeared a few weeks ago in a London Paper, but the Faculty here treated it with the silent contempt it merited; being persuaded that the declamatory effusions of such writers, when opposed to the opinions of Jenner, Woodville, Pearson, Denman, Saunders, Cline, Keate, Ring, Knight, Abernethy, and many others equally respectable, can have no weight with a discerning public. If, however, our Correspondent really believes that such paragraphs, with such signatures, or without a name, can possibly operate to the discouragement of the New Inoculation, in parts distant from the metropolis, we deem it will be sufficient for him, or any other of our Correspondents, to refer their sceptical patients to the exalted and respectable names which appear in the first pages of this Number.

A Pharmaceutical Correspondent concludes, from the Case given at page 535 of the Third Volume, that corrosive sublimate is either much cheaper in the neighbourhood of Ketley than in London, or that the article sold there was adulterated.

Communications are received from Dr. Alderson *and Mr.* Watt.

Mr. Watt's machine for curing distorted limbs.





J. Taylor sculp.

Mr. Humboldt's Anthracometer

Printed for R. Phillips, N°71, St. Paul's Church Yard.